

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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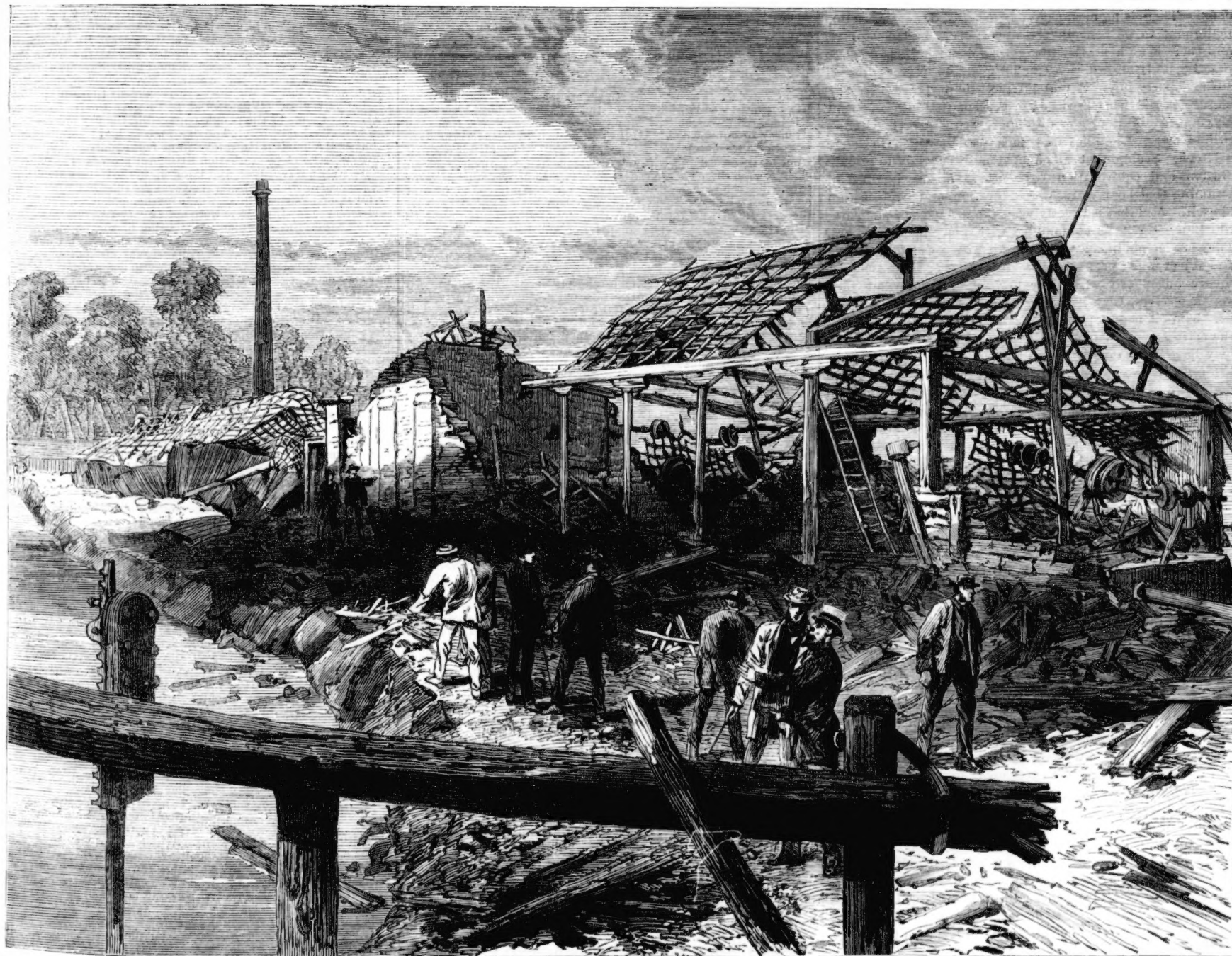
PRICE 3D.



MRS. WOOD'S FARMHOUSE.



THE DRYING SHED.



THE LATE EXPLOSION AT STOWMARKET: PLAIN COTTON DRYING-HOUSE AND DIPPING DEPARTMENT.

PIG-HEADED INSOLENCE.

SYDNEY SMITH was quite right; there can be no doubt about it. "The nicest people have the nastiest ideas." We dare say Mr. James Johnstone and those who inspire him are deemed very nice people; we are quite certain they deem themselves so; and yet we have not for a long time seen such a profuse display of nasty ideas as those contained in Mr. Johnstone's correspondence with the Premier. The secretary and acting committee of the Edinburgh Anti-Papal League, together with some other very foolish people, are greatly exercised about Mr. Gladstone's religious opinions; and, in order to satisfy their curiosity on that point, adopt a course which shows that they have themselves no real sense of genuine religion, which they confound with dogmatism. Somebody has said that the Premier is a Papist; "two British subjects" have crammed Mr. Johnstone with a story of having seen Mr. Gladstone, some years ago, taking part in Roman Catholic religious rites; and forthwith Mr. Johnstone seizes pen and paper, and indites a letter to the Premier demanding to know, first, whether this story be true; and, second, whether or not Mr. Gladstone be a member of the Church of Rome. Could pig-headed insolence further go than this? Yes; for on the Premier, through his private secretary, being so good-natured—weak, we should say—as to deny the truth of the wonderful Corfu tale, Mr. Johnstone and his committee won't take the right honourable gentleman's word; command him to repeat his denial, in order that even their crass stupidity may be satisfied; and when he declines to hold further communication with persons who are so little of gentlemen as to practically tell him he is a liar—an equivocator, at the least—conclude, in despite of a plain assurance to the contrary, that the Corfu story and the inference drawn from it are true, and send the correspondence to the newspapers, glorifying themselves, no doubt, on having unmasked a Jesuit and furnished a "warning to others" against a terribly dangerous man.

Does not this whole transaction display the perfection of insolence of the most pig-headed order, of which even Mr. Whalley would be ashamed? What right have Mr. James Johnstone and his committee to pry into the religious opinions of Mr. Gladstone or any other man? And by what rule of social intercourse are they entitled to give a gentleman the lie, and yet expect him to treat them with courtesy? Shall they receive extra civility, showing none? But perhaps cunning had as much to do as folly—politics as religion—in prompting Mr. Johnstone's letters. We know something of Scottish pietists, having had considerable opportunities in our youth of studying their habits, and we know a good deal of Tory politicians on both sides of the Tweed; and the result of our observation is, that neither is very scrupulous about the means they employ to gain party ends. There is no meanness too mean and no malice too malignant to be beneath the use of Tory understrappers, and there is no hypocrisy too gross for northern pietists to practise. If any device can be made to serve both—to advance party interests and aid pietistic purposes—we may be sure it will not be scorned because of its foulness. And Mr. James Johnstone's mode of measuring Mr. Gladstone's title to veracity supplies us with a test by which to gauge his own. Seeing that Mr. Johnstone is so ready to impute evasion and equivocation to another, we are justified in assuming that he is a master of evasion and equivocation himself. And that is exactly what the disciples of pietism—which must not be confounded with piety—generally are. They are adepts in conveying false impressions; they pursue one object under pretence of seeking another; their practices square but poorly with their professions; and what they are themselves, they naturally suspect their neighbours to be. Thus it is just possible that Mr. James Johnstone and the acting committee of the Edinburgh Anti-Papal League may have had a double object in view in writing and publishing the letters which appear elsewhere—to maintain their own reputation for Protestant zeal and to damage Mr. Gladstone politically. It is not surprising that, in their eagerness to attain these ends, and considering their palpably limited powers of perception, they failed to see that they were accomplishing a third object—to wit, earning the scorn and contempt of every truly Christian, liberal, and generous mind. Verily, they have had their reward; and verily, too, the post of Prime Minister of England is no enviable one, since it exposes its holder and his most private feelings to the prying curiosity, and the insolence, insults, and misrepresentations of every thick-headed fool or cunning knave who hopes to gain a little notoriety by badgering a Minister under pretence of defending the interests of "this Protestant country."

MEETINGS IN PHOENIX PARK.

The Government have conceded, at last, and unfortunately with something of a bad grace, what they would have done wiser by permitting at first. Phoenix Park, Dublin, is to be open to the public for the holding of meetings of an "unobjectionable" nature—that is to say, meetings held for purposes of discussion, and not for intimidation, meetings whereat speakers will reason and not bully and threaten; and thereby the inhabitants of Dublin are placed on a footing of equality with their fellow-subjects in London. This is as it should be, and we hope that a tolerably liberal interpretation will be given to the condition "unobjectionable." As we have already said on this subject, it is better to tolerate even foul speeches than to have to deal with those secret and fouler actions to which restrictions of speech invariably lead. Of course, there are limits to freedom of assembling and liberty of speech: if either are reasonably likely to pro-

voke a breach of the peace, to interfere with the just rights of others, or to endanger the stability of Government, the authorities will be justified in restraining both; but we trust that in future these points will be judged by the responsible Ministers of the Crown, and not by fussy, officious subordinates of the Edward Hornsby order, as unfortunately was the case on the occasion of the late unlucky collision between the populace and the police of Dublin.

THE EXPLOSION AT STOWMARKET.

At the Coroner's inquiry, on the 18th inst., into the circumstances attending the late fatal explosion of gun-cotton at Stowmarket.

Mr. Saunders Trotman, the manager of the works, said at the time of the first explosion he was in his office. He heard a heavy, deep thud. His impression was that one of the boilers had burst. He was surrounded with the debris of the office, through which he made his way to the front of the building. Seeing from the appearance of the wall at the end of the boilers that they were safe, witness turned down the towing-path as being the readiest way to the works, and entered the works through the acid gate. He at once saw that all on what was termed the dry side of the river—that is, the side on which the dry processes were carried on—was swept away. The buildings on the right-hand side of the river had collapsed and become a mass of debris. Fearing, from the appearance of the building, that some one must have been buried under them, witness hastened to the first mass of buildings, and shouted, "Anyone there?" and heard a moan. Dragging away the bricks, he cleared the head and shoulders of a man named Sparrow. Fire began to burn fiercely, and drive off nitrous fumes from the pans of acid in the building. These fumes compelled witness to retire and call for help. A man named Grant came to his assistance, and they succeeded in pulling Sparrow out. Witness then went to the next heap of bricks and repeated his inquiries. He pulled away some bricks on hearing a sound, and saw the back of a man's head. More help was obtained, and the man was rescued. Witness continued to call aloud, but could get no answers. Witness met Mr. W. Hewitt, and told him to try and discover, if he could, any bodies which might be in the ruins. Witness then went into the packing-sheds, which had collapsed, and which were also on fire, to see if anyone was buried therein. Having satisfied himself that such was not likely, witness went to the boilers and opened the flues. He next went to the gas, where he found Mr. James Draper, who had the same object in view of securing the gas. Witness then went to the office and took out some bundles of rags and lint, which he carried to the meadow where he had ordered similar articles to be deposited for the use of the surgeons. Witness returned to the body of the works, where he met the late Mr. E. Prentice and Mr. W. Prentice. Mr. W. Prentice asked whether the boilers were safe, and Mr. Edward Prentice asked witness whether he had seen Howe, the foreman. Witness replied that he had not, but that he hoped he was safe. Witness and the Messrs. Prentice then went to the packing-shed, where both the Messrs. Prentice lost their lives. One of the foremen shortly after made an inquiry of witness, and they left the Messrs. Prentice for a moment and went towards the poach-house, near which they received the shock of the second explosion, a staircase falling upon them. Witness then found that more of the works had taken fire. Shortly afterwards Mr. Woods came up to him and said, "For God's sake, Mr. Trotman, come; Mr. Edward Prentice is blown to pieces." Witness went and searched for the two Messrs. Prentice, but could find no trace of them. While he was prosecuting the search some one called to him that a body had been found. He went, and found the remains which had since been proved to be those of Mr. William Prentice—two legs and the pelvis. Witness then fell from faintness and loss of blood, and had to be helped home. Witness had been injured in the first explosion by the debris of the office falling upon him. Messrs. Hewitt afterwards did all they could on witness's behalf at the works. The number of persons on the books of the works as being employed on the premises was 170. Three of the persons employed were still missing. Gun-cotton was supposed to be five or six times the strength of gunpowder. All the materials used at the works were tested at a laboratory in the town, and witness could not state at what temperature gun-cotton would explode, not being a practical chemist himself. There was rather less than five tons of gun-cotton in each magazine at the time of the explosion, to the best of witness's belief. Some gun-cotton had been sent away from the works on the Friday or Saturday before the explosion; ten tons were then sent away. The quantity of gun-cotton made at the works in a week varied considerably, but the production was about five tons per week. Four tons per week would be a fair quantity. Previous to the ten tons being sent away there must have been twenty-one tons of gun-cotton on the premises. The compressed gun-cotton made at the works was on Professor Abel's patent. The company had the benefit of Professor Abel's experience, but had no written or printed directions from him as to the manufacture. The company had lately been manufacturing largely for the Government. The company made gun-cotton of two dynamic strengths; the gun-cotton supplied for the Government was of the highest dynamic force. No printed instructions were received from the Government as to the manufacture of the gun-cotton ordered. Samples of the gun-cotton made were sent to the laboratory in Stowmarket, to see that it was up to the proper standard. Mr. Slater was the chemist who tested the samples. The fuzes used in firing gun-cotton were never inserted in gun-cotton stored in the magazine. The company had nothing to do with fuzes. The cotton was first cleaned, and then sent to be dipped in three dipping-houses. After having been cooled for twenty-four hours, the cotton was centrifuged to expel the waste acid. It was then tubbed or washed, again centrifuged, and laid in tanks of water to soak. When wanted it was then carried to be beaten or broken into pulp. Having been so beaten, it was let down into the poacher for washing. The foreman of the poacher-house was named Caleb Turner. The quantity of acid allowed was 13lb. to each pound of cotton. The quantity of acid used would not affect the storage of the cotton, but would affect its solubility. The second quality of cotton made at the works, which was manufactured for mining purposes, was quite as pure as that made for the Government, as it was not known in the early stages what its destination would be. There was an explosion at the works three years ago. At that time the drying was all conducted in the house, into which hot air was admitted. The explosion seemed to have arisen from some alterations which were going on, which caused the ventilation to be defective and the temperature to be too high. No explosion had ever happened at the factory which could not be accounted for. No detonators were kept in the magazine or on the premises. No one was allowed to go to the magazines except the foreman or whoever he sent. No thermometer was kept in the magazines. Wet weather caused the cotton to be unduly damp. The cooling-pits were also somewhat affected by the weather. The cotton which exploded and which killed the Messrs. Prentice was packed in Government cases. The cotton varied somewhat in its manufacture and packing, according to the views of different Governments and clients. Sometimes cotton had been removed from the magazine to meet the views of different clients, but from no other reason. The foreman, Howe, had never told witness that he considered the magazines unsafe. There were two features in gun-cotton, stability and strength; but a practical chemist could explain the matter better than witness could. To make gun-cotton by a regular process would take, under favourable circumstances, seven to eight days. There were nine "poachers" at the works; each would hold about 1000lb. of cotton. They were always kept at work. Witness had no theory on the subject, except that the sun's heat had caused the explosion. August was an unlucky month for gun-cotton.

In cross-examination, witness said he had suffered from an injury to the bowels in consequence of the explosion. The managing board of the company did not control the details of the business. The works were designed by witness; the ground was a matter of necessity, as the land was placed at witness's disposal by the company. Witness, after the sad disaster which had happened, should not select the same site again. The licence under which the works were carried on was dated Feb. 21, 1870. Witness could not say whether any licence was taken out under the Nitro-Glycerine Act, 1869. Gun-cotton was composed of cotton saturated in nitric and sulphuric acid. The cotton used was prepared waste cotton, obtained from Manchester. None of the gun-cotton manufactured was ever redipped. Gun-cotton never lost its strength. Witness had read of gun-cotton being buried for years, and being found as powerful as ever on being unearthed. Witness kept a duplicate copy of the licence of February, 1870, in the drawer of his office. Witness occasionally examined the licence to ascertain that he was carrying out the rules laid down, especially when any alterations were made in the works. There was no rule, witness thought, in the licence which was not also in the printed rules in force at the works. The rule as to the distance of the magazines from the railway (30 yards), and the distance from the magazine at which persons were to be employed, had been adhered to—strong brick walls and buttresses had been substituted for the mounds originally formed for the protection of the magazine. They were considered a better protection than the mounds—hence the alteration. The mounds were removed when a third magazine was added. Witness could not remember the date of the erection of the third magazine. The mounds were named in the licence. No application was made to the magistrates for the substitution of the substantial brick walls for mounds. The brick walls were proposed by Mr. Prentice. Witness had found that the rule in the licence as to the package of gun-cotton had been infringed. He had always endeavoured to enforce the rule. Professor Abel had never expressed any disapproval of the buildings. Professor Abel did not see the buildings when they were in course of erection. Witness had never any conversation with Professor Abel as to the substitution of the brick walls for the mounds. Mr. Eustace Prentice was the managing director, and witness acted under him. Witness did not know that any other member of the Prentice family was concerned in the works. Frequently no other member of the Prentice family was at the works for a month together. Mr. Manning Prentice might visit the works once in two or three months. Mr. William Prentice came down sometimes to ask as to the quantity of acid which would be required. Mr. Edward Prentice and Mr. William Prentice came to the works after the explosion simply to render what help they could. Witness never received any complaints or warnings from anyone as to the state of the works. The men employed on the dry side of the works were provided with woollen clothing. Sometimes these men had been chided by witness for not wearing this clothing. Witness only knew by hearsay that the works had been recently insured. Under witness were four men, sub-managers of the respective departments at the works. The foreman of the dippers had 18s. per week; his name was Nathan. The foreman at the beater-house had 14s. per week; his name was Green. Caleb Turner, the foreman of the poacher-house, had 24s. per week. A man named Smith, the foreman of the centrifugal house, had 16s. per week. In the hydraulic department, a man named Wright had 14s. per week. Robert Williamson, who had the management of the acid department, had 15s. per week. Firmin was a foreman in one of the dipping-houses; he had 16s. per week. Brett, in the other dipping-house, had 16s. per week. Some of these foremen had only two or three persons under them. Howe, who had charge of the magazines, had 21s. per week. The wages of the men employed under the foremen were 14s. or 15s. per week. There were twenty-five or thirty boys who had from 3s. to 9s. per week; the general run had 5s. or 4s. 6d. The girls employed had from 3s. to 6s. per week; the big girls having 6s. Professor Abel did not take any part in the management of the works. He was only there occasionally. The managing director was at the works almost every day; he was there about an hour every day. The managing director went round the works. Mr. Lakeman, inspector of factories, had visited the works three or four times in the course of the past year. Witness did not report to Mr. Lakeman the omission of some of the people engaged in the dry process to wear the prescribed clothing. The dry process had been discontinued about twelve months since, except as regards about eight persons. There were no rules in relation to the wet process. The rules in the licence were not reprinted and hung up in the factory at the time of the explosion. Witness never read over the rules in the licence to the workpeople. Witness, in answer to further questions, said he would undertake to say that there were not twenty-five tons at the works a week before the explosion. The using of the packing-shed *pro tem*, for the storing of gun-cotton was an infringement of the licence; this, however, arose from casual circumstances, and it only occurred once, from a Wednesday to a Saturday. It might have occurred without witnesses knowledge, but it was very improbable. On the occasion on which the licence was infringed there might have been four tons of gun-cotton too much on the premises. Professor Abel had nothing to do with the testing of the gun-cotton. Mr. Slater, the analytical chemist to the company, never visited the works, and witness never consulted Mr. Slater. Witness adhered to his opinion that the quantity of acid in the cotton did not affect its storage. Witness did not know that on the Continent all buildings used for the manufacture of explosive substances were protected by earth mounds. He thought it only reasonable, however, that some such precaution should be adopted. Mounds between each department would have had no better effect than brick walls, but it might have been better to have surrounded each department with mounds. The mounds were found to slip away; hence Mr. Eustace Prentice thought it better to substitute brick walls for them. It was quite an accidental circumstance that more than the prescribed quantity of gun-cotton was recently at the works. The Government gun-cotton was of a more explosive character. In answer to the foreman of the jury, witness said he did not think the substitution of the brick walls for the mounds would have lessened the calamity. The walls were supposed to be better in the emergency of fire. In answer to Captain Majendie, witness said he thought there could be no doubt that the explosion occurred in the magazines. The second explosion was more violent than the first. There was more concussion, but less noise. The last was a detonation and the first an explosion. There was nothing but gun-cotton in the magazines; witness had occasion to visit them frequently. The floors of the magazines were swept occasionally, when any of them was empty. No iron was allowed in the magazines. An explosion had occurred before at the works when a case was being packed with compressed gun-cotton; a man and two girls were then much hurt. Occasional ignitions had occurred, but they were not attended with serious results. In answer to further questions, Mr. Trotman said it was not possible for any untested gun-cotton to get into the magazines. There was no danger in the manufacture of damp gun-cotton. Some special pickets were provided for the dryers recently. Witness persisted in his impression that solar heat had caused the explosion. He could refer, however, to no experiments to support his conclusion. The transport of gun-cotton to India or hot climates might be attended with difficulty. There were some detonators kept at the upper office of the company. Mr. Eustace Prentice might have access to the detonators. Witness knew of no ill-feeling among the workpeople, either towards himself or towards the company owning the works. Witness had never had reason to complain of the men for not working fast enough. There was always a plentiful supply of labour. It would be utterly impossible for acid to be found in the cartridges packed in the magazine. Acid had a tendency to produce combustion.

Mr. Lakeman, inspector of factories, said four of the young children killed at the works were under age. Had they not been employed illegally they would not have been killed.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The following is the full text of the proposition for the prolongation of powers which will be submitted to the National Assembly by the committee:—"M. Thiers, Chef du Pouvoir Exécutif de la République Française, will exercise, under the title of Président de la République Française, and during the sitting of the present National Assembly, the powers which were delegated to him on Feb. 17, which the Assembly also confirms and prolongs. The Ministers are responsible to M. Thiers. The President of the French Republic will have the right of speaking before the National Assembly at any time he may think fit." The Committee of the Budget has fixed M. Thiers's salary at 500,000*fr.*, and has awarded him besides a supplementary credit for the expenses incidental to his position. M. Thiers is to be the only public functionary lodged at the expense of the State.

The bill brought forward by M. Léon Gambetta for the dissolution of the National Assembly is framed as follows:—"Whereas, beyond the settlement of the question of peace or war and the consequences connected therewith, the National Assembly, considering its origin and composition, can neither resolve nor establish anything; that the different parties and opinions are represented by such respective numerical numbers that it is impossible to create a lasting and effective governmental majority; that in such a condition of affairs the Assembly is likely to increase and perpetuate a general uneasiness in the country, and to waste its time in vehement and fruitless discussions; that, besides, between the presidential power, independently constituted for a triennial period of years, and an indissoluble Chamber there is no arbitration: Be it therefore enacted that—Art. 1. The Assembly is dissolved from the date to be subsequently fixed in Committee. Art. 2. The Act dissolving the Assembly will fix the date for the convocation of the electors for the election of a Constituent Assembly. Art. 3. M. Thiers remains for the present intrusted with the functions conferred upon him by the National Assembly as Chief of the Executive Power of the French Republic, but will resign his powers into the hands of the Constituent Assembly." A bill drawn up by M. Louis Blanc and some other deputies proposes that the Assembly should be dissolved on Dec. 15 next, that the electors should be convoked for the first Sunday in January, and that the Assembly should meet on Jan. 15 to receive the resignation of M. Thiers.

The Committee on the Army Reorganisation Bill presented their report to the Assembly on Saturday. In its present shape the bill introduces military service for all able-bodied men between twenty and forty years of age, abolishes the system of substitutes, which did so much mischief to the army of the Emperor, deprives soldiers of their political rights whilst on service, and dissolves the National Guard. A meeting of deputies constituting the Republican Left in the National Assembly was held, on Tuesday last, for the purpose of considering the proposal to disband the National Guard. There was an almost unanimous agreement that the maintenance of the force, after the passing of the bill for the reorganisation of the army, would be unnecessary, though immediate disbandment was regarded as likely to provoke a dangerous agitation. Finally, a resolution was come to that the disbandment should take place in all the communes as circumstances attending the reorganisation of the army will permit—the operation to be completed during the year following the promulgation of the new law.

Numerous reinforcements of troops have arrived in Algeria, and fresh expeditionary columns are being organised. General Cartier Freycourt will take the command of the sub-district of Milianah.

ITALY.

Despatches have been exchanged between the French and Italian Governments in reference to the modifications which the former Government is about to introduce into the Customs duties, and the French Government has informed the Italian Cabinet that it would respect the stipulations of the previous treaties of commerce.

The municipality of Rome has voted a sum of 100,000*fr.* towards the erection of a monument in commemoration of the unification of Italy, and has called upon the other towns of the kingdom to follow its example.

It being now definitely arranged that the opening of the Mont Cenis Tunnel is to take place on the 18th of next month, great efforts are being made to give importance to the ceremony. In connection with the fêtes, there will be an industrial exhibition at Turin, which will remain open until Sept. 25. King Victor Emmanuel will, it is expected, be present at the opening of the tunnel; and, according to the French papers, M. Thiers is also likely to be present.

SPAIN.

The policy of retrenchment in the public expenditure is being prosecuted with success in Spain. Reductions have been made upon so extensive a scale, and the actual deficit is so small, as to render recourse to a loan unnecessary.

A decree has been issued sanctioning public subscriptions to a loan of 150 million pesetas, bearing 3 per cent interest. The subscription is to be opened at nine a.m. on Sept. 6 in Spain, Paris, London, Lisbon, and Amsterdam, and will close at five p.m. the same day. A guarantee deposit will be required equal to 2 per cent of the bonds applied for. The first subscription of 30 per cent will be due on Sept. 21; the next, of 40 per cent, on Oct. 20; the third, of 20 per cent, on Nov. 20; and the last, of 10 per cent, on Dec. 20. The deposit will be accepted as part payment of the first instalment, and the December coupon in part payment of the last instalment. Treasury bills on Paris and London will be accepted as specie. Anticipatory payments of the instalments will entitle the subscriber to a discount of 6 per cent. In case the subscriptions exceed the amount demanded, proportionate reductions will be made in allotment.

A decree has been issued appointing Senor Olozaga Ambassador at Paris. Another decree has been issued ordering the Control Department for the Taxes to make a general census of the estates both in the towns and rural districts.

GERMANY.

There is to be a congress, deliberative and public, of the Catholics of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland during three days in the month of September. It will be held at Munich, on the invitation of a committee of members of the "Old Catholic Party."

Several cases of cholera have occurred in Berlin, some of which proved fatal.

AUSTRIA.

A leading article in an influential Vienna journal discusses the possible retirement of Count Beust from the Austrian Chancellerie, and urges his election to the Reichsrath as deputy for the capital, by way of political demonstration.

PERSIA.

A correspondent at Shiraz says that the famine in Persia may now be said to have almost come to an end, but that great distress must prevail for some time to come, and many more people, no doubt, die of starvation. On all the roads there are beggars in the last stages of destitution, who fight over the remains of dead mules, horses, donkeys, and waylay travellers. At Yezd, during the prevalence of the famine, eight children are known to have been killed and eaten as food by their parents. The British Minister at Teheran had done much to alleviate the sufferings of the people; but the Persian Government had shown great apathy, and just when the scarcity began had increased the taxes on gardens and arable lands. The Shah was becoming very orthodox, and it was reported had said to one of his Ministers that Europeans ought not to be allowed to go into the streets while it was raining, lest some of the drops should splash from them and defile a Mussulman.

THE GRAVEYARDS OF THE LATE WAR.

A LITTLE more than a year has passed away since the commencement of the war between France and Germany, and it is natural that a considerable degree of interest should attach to the scenes of the opening battles and to those sad memorials of the contest—the tombs of the slain. Accordingly we this week publish a couple of Engravings representing graveyards of the war. One of these—from a French source—represents Alsatian peasants decorating the tombs of French soldiers who perished at Weissenburg—the scene of the first German triumph. Those Alsations are French citizens no longer, but their sympathies are still with France; they have not had time to realise their change of nationality, and hence it is that the soldiers who fell in defence of France still command the admiration and respect of the simple peasants of Alsace. Our other illustration—from the pencil of a German artist—represents the last resting-place, at St. Mary-aux-Chênes, of those officers of the Prussian Guards who fell in the desperate struggles that resulted in forcing back Bazaine's army into Metz, and led to the siege and capture of the "maiden fortress." Though these graves be undecorated, though no wreaths of immortelles be hung upon the crosses that mark the several tombs, their occupants have this advantage over their French rivals—that, whereas the latter sleep in a foreign land, though among a sympathising people, the Prussians mingle with what is now German soil. It is to be hoped, however, that national rivalries and national enmities will not reach beyond the grave, and that the tombs of Frenchmen and Germans will be alike respected and cared for. Indeed, this seems to be already done, as appears by a letter from Saarbrück in the *Telegraph* of Tuesday. The writer is describing what he saw at Saarbrück and Speichenburg; but what he says applies more or less to the whole district. He writes:—

"Only a year 'and a bittock' since Wörth was fought down in those frontier lands where I first entered France under the banner of her enemies; and the Vale of Honour, to which I have made pilgrimage this day, was swept and garnished for the reception of its silent guests. What a year of horrors has it been for those who 'followed the war!' How many friends, with forty prospective good years of life in their stalwart frames, have I lost since the momentous opening week of August last! These graves, amongst which I have been wandering for nearly a fortnight, are dismal reminders of many a *mauvais quart d'heure* that followed the death-stroke dealt by some unseen hand to the gay companion with whom I had often strolled Unter den Linden, or listened to the strains of Strauss on the terrace of Homburg, or haply breakfasted at head-quarters on the very morning of his last day. Within a mile of this picturesque little town—formerly the 'sentinelle perdue' of Germany, but now the 'arrière garde' of a broad and deep host of defences against the Fatherland's hereditary foe—is an oval inclosure fenced in with flagstaffs bearing huge medallions, gigantic iron crosses, and enormous wreaths of laurel. This is the 'Ehrenthal'; and within its precincts lie several hundreds of mouldering corpses that, on the morning of Aug. 6, 1870, were intrepid warriors rushing onwards to meet a glorious death. The heroic General von François and his son are amongst their comrades there, within a few feet of one another; and the story of the graves records many a name besides well known in the military annals of Prussia, where deeds of derring-do run in families, and are handed down from generation to generation by an entail of valour. At the eastern edge of this valley begins the sorrowful record, with which I have lately grown so familiar, of the cost at which German unity was achieved—the items of the account being, however, more distinctly set forth than in any of the great battle-fields that I have visited since the conclusion of the campaign. Round Sedan the significant figures are wellnigh erased; in the vicinity of Metz they are clear, but too evidently written in perishable ink; whilst here they are graven on granite or chiselled in iron, in such sort that they may endure for ages.

"The houses that were destroyed by French shells are built up again; the railway service has resumed its old routine, oblivious of 'Militärzüge' and of the days when tickets were a myth. The Saarbrückers, for a short span as famous as the defenders of Thermopylae—and, for months after the tide of war had swept over them, shaken out of the even tenor of their lives by the throes of the earthquake that was convulsing France—have fallen back into the dull, prosaic, plodding plan of existence that they followed before the war; but the French breastworks on the Exerzirplatz are still unlevelled, a few of the shell-craters have not yet been filled up, and the fields at the foot of the terrible Spichenberg are thickly set with tombs—not mere cross-crested mounds of weed-clad earth, but formal, solid, and in many cases costly monuments. Half-way up that blood-stained hill is a raised-in-marble slab, covering the remains of eight officers belonging to the 74th Regiment, all 'well-born' men, who were shot down within a few yards of the spot under which they are interred. This tomb is approached by steps cut out of the mountain side, and, being thickly planted within its 'grille,' resembles nothing so much as a diminutive London square. Higher up, on the very brow of that bad eminence, stands a showy 'Denkmal,' with half an hour's hard reading on its four faces. Hard by, another tomb still more gorgeous, with four Prussian eagles roosting on its several corners, is in process of erection; and the rugged breast of the hog-backed bluff is studded with memorials of less pretension, each bearing dumb witness to the hideous slaughter that Kamecke's over-impetuousness and the stubborn persistence of his men caused in the ranks of the 7th Army Corps on that fateful day. What a hill it is to climb with the aid of a stick, in a light shooting-suit, and at your ease, taking time to breathe at every thirty yards or so of the upward progress! When I had toiled to the summit, and looked down the abrupt descent, in many places absolutely precipitous, I could scarcely believe that men laden with packs and cartridge-boxes, hampered with rifles and buttoned up in thick uniforms, could ever have attempted to carry such a position by storm. Still less—glancing along the wood-crowned hills which swept backward on each flank of the central bluff, and which commanded not only the valley beneath but the heights beyond it—could I comprehend how any army that was fortunate to occupy such a splendid line of natural fortifications could ever have been driven from them, even by a force of tenfold strength. The heights, too, were fringed with earthworks, upon which the French had mounted mitrailleuses as well as field-guns. Two of these mitrailleuses they depressed over the edge of the cliff, so that their fire swept with a tempest of bullets the face of the slope, up which the Prussians were struggling; whilst the French gunners were obliged to hang on to the wheels of their pet *cracheurs*, lest the weapons should topple over the brink and tumble down bodily amongst the assailants. And yet Kamecke's men kept climbing on; until, after a desperate resistance, the legions of France fell back before the iron obstinacy of the Teuton, and gave up perhaps the most formidable natural stronghold that has ever been taken by a coup de main within human memory."

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN UNIFORMS.

AMIDST the many army reforms now reported all over Europe that of Austria is not the least interesting. It is, of course, modelled after the Prussian system, which is just now subject to all the adulation that follows success. Service is obligatory on all, beginning with three years in the operating army, succeeded by three years in the reserve, and concluding with seven years in the landwehr corps. Hungary, however, has an organisation of its own. The Austrian uniforms have, of course, undergone considerable modification, and those of the Hungarian force are remarkable for their picturesqueness and variety—qualities which are displayed by the examples given in our illustration of the latest improvements.

THE MEN IN WHAT IS CALLED THE STITCHED-SHOE TRADE have obtained a general advance of 6*d.* and 3*d.* per pair.

A witness was examined as to the magazines, and said he knew of no irregularity respecting them. When he went into the magazines he had boots specially made for the purpose. Eliza Mann said she had some conversation with Howe, the foreman, on the Wednesday before the explosion. Howe said he had had a warm job. He had been to the magazines and they were very warm. Mrs. Marton said Howe had a similar conversation with her on the day before the explosion.

Before the inquiry closed for the night Mr. Trotman was further examined and said that, about a fortnight before the explosion, while some of the cotton was drying, he smelt nitrous fumes, which showed that there was too much acid left in the cotton. The fact of too much acid being left in the cotton would render it very liable to spontaneous combustion. No cotton was, however, removed from the magazines in consequence.

The inquiry was continued last Saturday, when the examination of Mr. Trotman, the manager of the works, was proceeded with. Witness was questioned at some length respecting a suspicion that some of the cotton had been tampered with in the process of manufacture; but upon this point the evidence was not clear. Mr. Trotman stated that he could not account for the occurrence at all. Colonel Younghusband, Superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Works at Waltham Abbey, described the results of some experiments, showing the explosive qualities of gun-cotton by ignition, which were carried out several months ago by direction of the Government. These established the following points:—1. The non-liability of compressed gun-cotton to explosion by accidental ignition when stored in magazines in the proper boxes. 2. The ignition of a package of compressed gun-cotton, forming part of a store, was not necessarily attended by the immediate ignition of the neighbouring boxes, as would be the case with gunpowder. 3. Gun-cotton was perfectly non-inflammable when stored in the damp condition. Colonel Younghusband added that further experiments ought to be made with gun-cotton in a dry state, and that its storage should be conducted with great care. The further hearing was adjourned.

The subscription made for the relief of the sufferers now exceeds £1500. In connection with the death of Oliver Canham, one of the persons killed, it is curious to note that he was injured at the explosion which occurred on the company's works four or five years ago, and that on that occasion he barely escaped with his life. After the first explosion on the 11th inst. he went down to the works to look after his son, who was one of the workpeople. He had hardly reached the scene of the disaster when the second explosion occurred and terminated his existence.

THE TIBER.

ONE of the first results of the new life arising in Rome as a consequence of the downfall of the temporal power will be the realisation of a scheme which has long been in contemplation, but which under the Papal Government might, perhaps, never have gone beyond the limits of a wild and vague chimerical project—we mean the exploration of the bed of the Tiber. The Italians, who now for the first time since Constantine feel as if the great city were indeed their own, have an almost boundless, yet not exaggerated, idea of the artistic, archaeological, and other treasures buried under the yellow sands which the river has accumulated on the spot for the last 3000 years. Every revolution, they say, had to pay its tribute to the river. It was the Tiber which received the statues of an unpopular Emperor, his armour, and his diadem and other insignia, even when the body itself was not flung into its waters. In more calamitous times, when Alaric, Genseric, Totila, or, in later ages, the Norman, the Swabian, the Austrian, thundered at the gates, the inhabitants, hopeless for their lives, had no other means of baffling the invader's cupidity than by committing to the Tiber the spoils which must otherwise inevitably fall into the plunderer's hands. "The Tiber will have its own share" is a common saying among the Romans at the present day; and the universal receptacle of all that is lost has been further enriched by fires, inundations, wrecking of galleys laden with the wealth of the ancient and mediæval world, and the materials of ruined temples and palaces, of which the river afforded the most expeditious way of clearing the ground. We may imagine what wonders would gladden our eyes if we could bid the ocean restore whatever it hides in its depths. But the Tiber flows over, if not as vast and rich, at least as interesting, a variety of Old World relics, all lying undisturbed under fathoms of alluvial soil which has buried them for ages, and only awaiting the enterprising generation which will bring these long-forgotten treasures into the light of day.

The scheme of a thorough excavation of the bed of the Tiber, with a view to call the river to account and put it "in liquidation," compelling it to disgorge its ill-gotten gains, has now been taken up by an Italian association, at the head of which is the well-known Signor Alessandro Castellani, but which relies on the co-operation of many artists, antiquaries, and other learned men of Europe and America, all of whom have been strongly urging the speedy commencement of an undertaking which has already been too long delayed. It is not as a commercial or a financial speculation that the work is to be executed. Those who set about it expect no other return for their trouble and expense than the immense gain sure to accrue from it to art and history—to archaeological knowledge in all its branches. The society reckons, of course, on the aid of the other company, which has lately been formed with a view to protect the city from those periodical inundations of the Tiber against which the Papal Government would, or could, find no remedy; and many of the contrivances by which our own engineers have laid the foundations of the Thames Embankment will find their application in extensive operations which are now to be carried on along the banks and in the bed of the Roman river. Encouragement to the Italian society in this truly great national undertaking comes in daily from every quarter, and a Parisian banking-house of almost boundless wealth and munificence has volunteered funds to defray the first expenses, so as to give the start to an enterprise which will certainly experience no lack of support in the sequel.

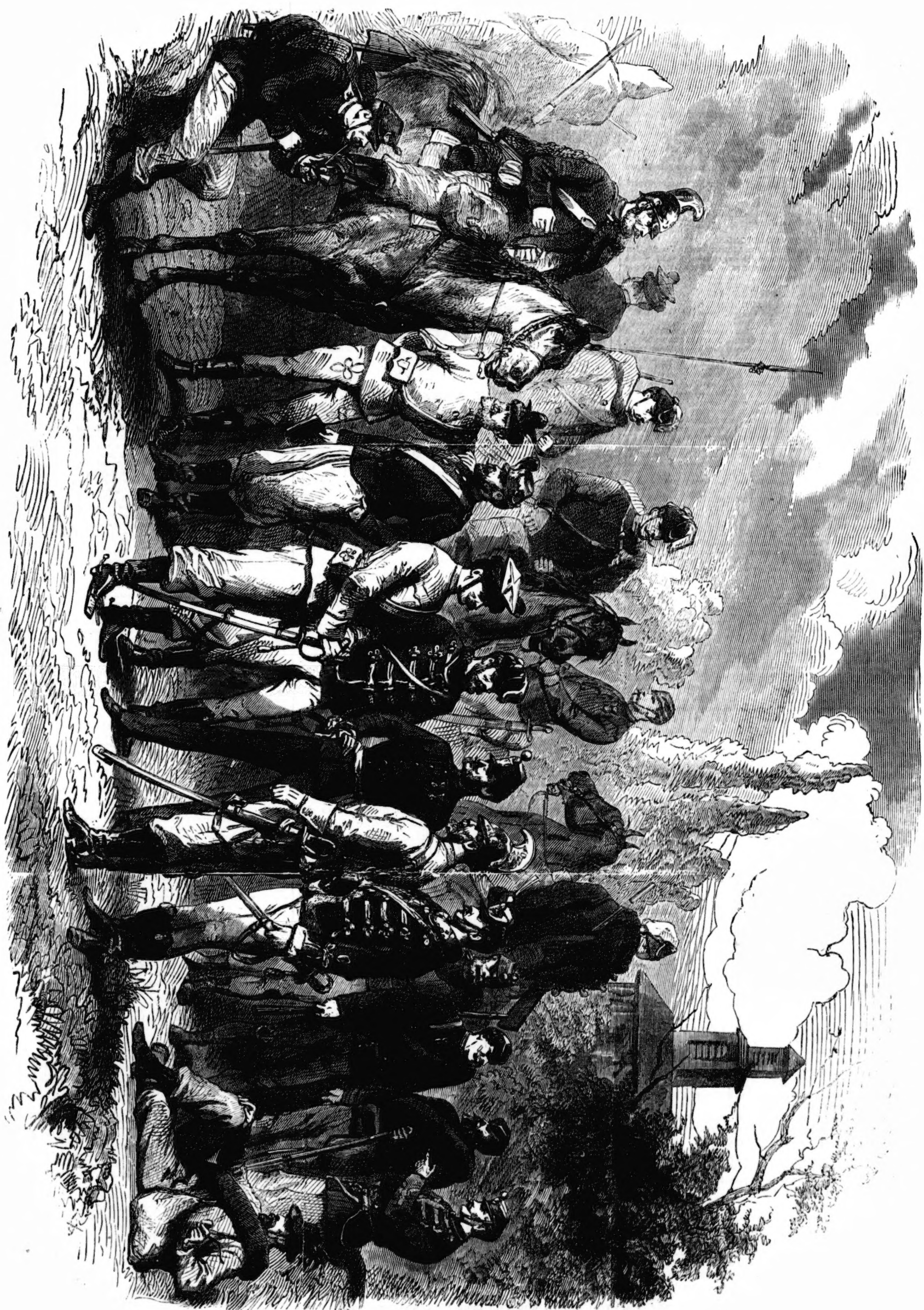
PAWNBROKERS.—The House of Commons' Select Committee on the laws affecting the pawnbroking trade state in their report that it appears to them that, as all persons are now free to buy and sell goods, and to lend money upon them upon such terms as they may mutually think best, subject to the general provisions of the law, any restraint upon the business of pawnbroking should be kept within the narrowest limits which the necessity of the case may demand. The Committee regret to think that from the necessities as also the reckless and improvident habits of considerable numbers of the people it is desirable that the small advances which they obtain from pawnbrokers should still be regulated by statute, so that they may not be subject to imposition from not knowing or sufficiently understanding the conditions under which their goods are pledged; but, as this reason does not extend to transactions of considerable amount, there is now no ground for interfering with the freedom of contract in such dealings. The Committee are of opinion that the limit for statutory regulation should not exceed a loan of £2, and that all dealings above that amount should be left to the discretion of the parties. As, however, the public has long been accustomed to consider the business of pawnbroking regulated by law to the extent of £10, the Committee recommend that, where no special contract is made, the law relating to dealings under £2 should be the measure of the implied contract between the parties and govern the transaction. With regard to loans under £2 the Committee recommend a simpler scale of charges—one halfpenny per month interest for every 2*s.*, or fraction thereof, advanced, and a charge of one halfpenny for the duplicate for 10*s.*, or less, and 1*d.* on higher advances. The Committee recommend several amendments of the law, such as the abolition of period hours for keeping pawnbrokers' shops open; the reduction of the period for redemption to six months, with a week's grace; that goods under 10*s.* value should become the pawnbroker's property if not redeemed in that time; and that he be absolutely liable for the safety of goods pledged. They suggest a general law regulating the summary jurisdiction of justices respecting the illegal disposal of goods, the receiver of them to be liable to him without due care; but the value to be paid by the owner if they have been unlawfully disposed of through his own negligence. It is recommended that the pawnbroker's licence duty be £7 10*s.*, and that no licences to new pawnbrokers be granted without the certificate of the justices, such certificates to be liable to be withdrawn on conviction by a jury for fraudulent dealings.



THE GRAVEYARDS OF THE LATE WAR: ALSATIAN PEASANTS DECORATING THE TOMBS OF FRENCH SOLDIERS AT WEISSENBURG.



GRAVE OF OFFICERS OF THE PRUSSIAN GUARDS AT ST. MARY-AUX-CHENES, NEAR METZ.



NEW UNIFORMS OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House received the Appropriation Bill from the Commons and advanced that and other measures a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Appropriation Bill was passed, and one or two other measures were advanced a stage.

Upon the second reading of the Reductions ex Capite Lecti Abolition Suspension Bill, a short discussion arose upon the old subject of the manner in which the Government had conducted the business of the Session.

Lord ELCHO complained of the manner in which affairs had been managed, and tendered to the Ministry a good deal of counsel as to the course which they should pursue in the future.

Mr. CARDWELL retorted by thanking the noble Lord for his excellent advice and regretting that his example was by no means as good as his precept.

In reply to Mr. W. Johnston, the Marquis of HARTINGTON explained and justified the course which the Government had pursued in stopping the procession of the 'Prentice Boys of Derry. In moving the adjournment, the noble Marquis announced the intention of the Government to issue as soon as practicable a Commission to inquire into the conduct of the police with reference to the meeting in Phoenix Park, and, in the meantime, not to interfere with any meetings of an unobjectionable character held in the park.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The passing of the Appropriation Bill and some other measures was followed by a review of the Session from Lord Redesdale, who was replied to by Lord Halifax and the Lord Chancellor.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER accepted the Lords' amendment on the Vaccination Act (1867) Amendment Bill, and there was a short conversation upon the subject of our relations with the Republic of Mexico and the claims of the Mexican bondholders.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21.

PROROGATION.—THE ROYAL MESSAGE.

Parliament was prorogued, on Monday afternoon, by Royal Commission; but the proceedings were witnessed by only a few spectators, and excited no general public interest. When the Royal Commissioners, with the Lord Chancellor at their head, and wearing their quaint robes and extraordinary cocked hats, entered the House of Lords, shortly before two o'clock, there were in their places only a couple of lay peers—the Earl of Shaftesbury and another—and the single Bishop who had read prayers. Soon afterwards, however, Lord Northbrook entered the House and took his seat on the Ministerial bench, and he was speedily followed by a Conservative peer. The Strangers' Gallery was pretty well filled, principally by gentlemen; but there were only half a dozen ladies on the floor, and only one in a side gallery. As soon as the Commissioners had taken their seats upon the crimson bench in front of the throne, the Usher of the Black Rod was dispatched to summon the Commons, who speedily made their appearance at the Bar of the House, headed by the Speaker, who was accompanied by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Henley, and nearly all the members who had been present at the brief sitting of the other House. The Royal assent was given to several bills; and, after the Lord Chancellor had, in his usual emphatic and audible tone, read the Queen's Speech, Parliament was, by virtue of the authority conferred upon the Commissioners, prorogued to Nov. 7.

Although several members of the Government, including Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Cardwell, Sir H. Storks, and Lord Enfield were early in their places in the House of Commons, the House was not made until about ten minutes before two o'clock, and almost before Mr. Newdegate had time to complete a notice of motion for next Session, and Mr. Cardwell to read a letter from Sir Roundell Palmer approving of the course the Government had taken in reference to the Army Bill, Black Rod appeared at the table, and summoned the Commons to attend in the other House. After an absence of about half an hour the Speaker returned, and, standing at the table, read the Royal Speech. This duly accomplished, the right hon. gentleman received the adieux of the members present, and the Session of 1871 was at an end.

The Commissioners were Viscount Halifax, the Duke of St. Albans, Earl Cowper, and the Earl of Cork. The Lord Chancellor read the Royal Message as follows:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The time has now arrived when I am enabled to release you from your attendance in Parliament, and to commend your unwearied labours for the public good.

I acknowledge with satisfaction the loyal readiness with which you have made provision for my beloved children, Princess Louise and Prince Arthur.

The great events and important changes which have recently occurred on the continent of Europe have not compromised the friendly relations subsisting between the Crown of the United Kingdom and foreign Powers. Whatever part I may take in those international questions which from time to time may arise will continue to be taken with no other view than the maintenance of general concord and public right.

The conference which was sitting in London at the commencement of the Session was joined, during its deliberations, by a French Plenipotentiary, and it considered and agreed upon a revision of those stipulations of the treaty of 1856 which concerned the Black Sea and the Bosphorus. I trust that the unanimous decision of the Powers, which has been recorded in a new treaty, may assist in securing the tranquillity and welfare of the East.

It is with a special satisfaction that I refer on the present occasion to our relations with the United States of America. By the Treaty of Washington modes of settlement have been fixed for several questions which had long remained in dispute.

My communications with the American Government have not been without the promise of advantage to other countries. The President has concurred with me in an application of that principle of amicable reference which was proclaimed by the Treaty of Paris, and which I rejoice to have had an opportunity of recommending by example. And we have also agreed in the adoption of certain rules for guiding the maritime conduct of neutrals, which may, I trust, ere long obtain general recognition and form a valuable addition to the code of international law.

I place full reliance upon the disposition of the American Government to carry forward with cordiality and zeal the subsidiary arrangements which have been determined on for the execution of the treaty.

I shall apprise the Parliament of Canada that the provisions which require its consent are, in my view, highly conducive to the interests of the Dominion. On these provisions, however, that Parliament will pass an independent and final judgment.

The Government of France has signified its desire to alter some of the provisions of the Commercial Treaty of 1860, which is now terminable, upon a notice of twelve months, by either of the contracting States. I am anxious to meet the wishes of a friendly Power, and to give scope for any measure calculated to meet its fiscal exigencies; but I should witness with concern any change of a nature to restrict that commercial intercourse between the two countries which has done so much for their closer union.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I thank you for the liberal supplies which, under the circumstances of the year, I directed my Government to ask from you; and for the sum of money you have voted in order to meet the charge of the compensations required by the abolition of purchase in the Army.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I observe with concern that you have not been able to bring to a definite issue the treatment of some of the subjects which were recommended to you in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Session.

But several important laws have been added to the Statute Book.

By the Army Regulation Bill you have made a liberal provision for the officers of the Army, who will no longer be permitted on retirement to sell their commissions to their successors; and, by transferring to the Executive Government powers in respect to the auxiliary forces which have hitherto been vested in the Lords Lieutenant of counties, you have laid the foundation for measures calculated to effect a closer union among the various land forces of the kingdom.

The Act by which, after a full examination of the facts, you conferred extraordinary powers on the Viceroy of Ireland for the repression of agrarian outrage in Westmeath, has thus far answered its purpose. Else-

where in that portion of the United Kingdom there is a gratifying immunity from crime, and agriculture and trade are prosperous.

By the measures relating to University Tests, to the repeal of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, and to the laws which affect trades unions, you have brought to a conclusion long-continued and serious controversies.

The Local Government Board Act will, I trust, prepare the way for important sanitary and administrative improvements; and the Act relating to the Judicial Committee will supply a much-needed element of strength to an important tribunal, and afford a prospect of clearing away a serious arrears of appeals now before the Privy Council.

But there is every likelihood that, for a long time to come, the great and varied interests of the United Kingdom and of the Empire at large, together with the extending demands of modern society, may prevent any lightening of the honourable but arduous burdens of legislation.

The condition of the revenue, the revived activity of trade, and the prospects of the harvest, are subjects for congratulation; and I trust that these and all other bounties of Providence will ever meet their fitting acknowledgments in the hearts of a grateful people.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1871.

HOLIDAY-MAKERS.

ONE of the most artificial portions of our very artificial system is that which relates to what are called "the holidays," when London is supposed to be "out of town." A more impudent supposition, by-the-by, could hardly be made. Whatever may be said of Lord Byron's

... about twice three thousand persons, bred

By no means to be very wise or witty,

But to sit up while others lie in bed,

And look down on the universe with pity,

we feel that any man would be safe who wagered that the population of London at this moment—meaning the people now sleeping in it—does not fall fifteen thousand short of the number returned under the last Census. There is not much animation in the Lady's Mile, the clubs are not brisk, a good many houses at the West-End are shut up, and a good many staffs of menials on board wages; but there it almost ends. The ordinary holiday-making populations take short trips, and as fast as one goes out another comes home. As for the streets, let any man walk down the Strand, and say if London is out of town.

The artificiality of the holiday system, if it may be so called, is, however, what we commenced by observing. It is certainly very artificial that Parliament should sit all through June and July and do the greater part of its work late at night; and it is equally so that the mere sitting of Parliament should go so far to regulate our habits in the matter of taking holidays. Whether that august body is sitting or not does not make the smallest difference to the immense majority of holiday-makers; neither does the closing of the law courts. Why, then, is September the holiday season for everybody? Hastings or the Isle of Wight is as lovely in April as in September; yet we do not hear echoed round in the spring as we do in the autumn the questions, "When do you leave town?" and "Where are you going to this year?" and "How long do you mean to be out of London this season? Where shall I write to you?" The fact is there is a great deal of mere conventionality about it; but perhaps nobody need complain much; for the fact of there being a sort of recognised season for "the holidays" results, no doubt, in many people getting a respite granted to them who would not otherwise have one of so much length, or perhaps any at all.

There are three great evils which any man less wise than Solomon may see under the sun, in the way in which people take holidays. One is the going in crowds, and "doing" the same sheep-tracks, in the same weary, unenjoying way. We have nothing to say—not a word—against Cook's or any other "tours," for people who want to see sights; but we do not believe such "tours" can be refreshing to hard-worked people in the thick of life's contests. And we are quite certain that the holiday-maker who makes what might be called an "original" start in his pleasure-taking has the best of it in point of holiday proper. The second evil is want of thoroughness—that is, going about your holiday in a half-hearted way, having business letters sent to you, and looking over your shoulder to the city you have left. Bad, very bad! "Remember Lot's wife!" Holiday should be holiday. There is not a principle of hygiene better recognised or more easily worked out and justified than that a short period of entire rest from customary labour is more refreshing and restoring than a much longer time spent in a half-and-half way, with sidelong glances at "shop." The third evil is overdoing it whilst out. This is chiefly the temptation of vain people, who care more for achieving great physical exploits—or at least talking about them—than about rest or simple pleasures; and people of straitened means, who wish to crowd as much enjoyment as they can into their brief breathing-time. It is useless talking to fools; but let

no one who is out in the country for a holiday attempt too much. If the time is short, much exercise is out of place; for a man must be "seasoned" before he can derive the full benefit of it.

We cannot forbear adding a fourth evil to our list. It is that people who go out of town ostensibly for their health do, in the majority of instances, continue in absolutely greater force all the town habits which were injuring them before they went for their holiday. Instead of living with some sort of additional care as to the hours they keep and the diet they follow out, you find them smoking more than ever, stewing in casinos or close rooms, and drinking a great deal more than they need, though the stimulus of fresh air and rest is just what would, and should, enable them to dispense with the usual amount of other stimulants, and give the stomach and nerves a chance of recovering tone. A more astonishing sight than the deck of an excursion-steamer you shall hardly see. Here are so many people who come out ostensibly for sea air, and what are they doing? Gorging, drinking, and smoking, till the decks are like a low music-hall at eleven o'clock at night. Holiday-makers of this kind could do better for their health and their pockets if they would take a return-ticket to Hampstead or Richmond, sit down in a "blowzy" spot, smoke nothing at all, or just one cigar, and eat and drink just as much as will go into the coat-pocket, and no more. That any human being should go on board a steamer and pay four or five shillings for what he might just as well do in the parlour of the Pig and Whistle is one of those mysteries which not even the omniscience of journalism can fathom. Accordingly we give it up.

PIG-HEADED INSOLENCE.

THE honorary secretary of the Edinburgh Anti-Papal League has made public the following correspondence:—

Anti-Papal League, Edinburgh, July 7.

Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.—Sir,—The acting members of the Anti-Papal League would urge on you the great necessity there is for your quieting the minds of the Protestant subjects of her Majesty by your answering the question put to you by the Birmingham, Huntingdonshire, and Glossop Protestant Associations, "Whether you are or are not a member of the Church of Rome?" Your being Prime Minister of this Protestant country entitles every subject of her Majesty who has regard for the Protestant succession to the Throne to make the foregoing inquiry. And as you have hitherto evaded answering it by referring to your actions as a proof of what you are in religion, it becomes still more important, seeing that there is in circulation here the following report of actions of yours—namely, that when you were in Corfu some years ago, while unconnected with the Government of this country, but travelling as a statesman, two gentlemen, British subjects, saw you go down on one knee on the street in Corfu, and kiss the hand of a priest. Shortly after that high mass was to be celebrated in the Jesuit church in Corfu, therefore these two gentlemen went to see it performed, in order that they might ascertain if you would be there, and they saw you kneel within the railing of the altar, like a party partaking in the service. Soon after that these gentlemen met at a dinner-party two of the priests belonging to the said Jesuit church, and they were speaking exultingly of the accession they had to their number in the person of an English statesman. Thereon the aforesaid gentlemen said they understood the priests meant yourself, and asked if you had been all owed to go within the railing because of your eminence as a statesman. The reply was, "No; for no one could be allowed within the altar railing except members of the Church." For these reasons the question is now repeated, "Are you or are you not a member of the Church of Rome?" Your answer to this will oblige, yours faithfully,

JAMES JOHNSTONE, Hon. Secretary.

10, Downing-street, Whitehall, July 8.

Sir,—Mr. Gladstone desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and to inform you that the two anonymous stories which you have thought it becoming to report are false.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. B. GURDON.

Mr. James Johnstone.

Anti-Papal League, Edinburgh, July 10.

W. B. Gurdon, Esq.—Sir,—Your letter of the 8th ult. has been read by the acting members of the Anti-Papal League, who are of opinion that, seeing Mr. Gladstone has replied that the reports referred to are false, but has not said they are entirely false, perhaps this may be the reason why he has not been able to answer the inquiry as to whether he is or is not a member of the Church of Rome? Hoping still to receive the answer, I remain, yours faithfully,

JAMES JOHNSTONE, Hon. Secretary.

Anti-Papal League, Edinburgh, July 21.

Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.—Sir,—The vast importance of the interests involved in the question—Is the Prime Minister of Great Britain a Romanist?—constrains the acting members of this league to direct your attention to the two reports narrated in my letter of the 7th ult., and your answer of the 8th, through Mr. Gurdon, stating that these reports are false; but no answer has been received to my letter of the 10th. These reports, as given in my first letter, are minute in details, some of which may be incorrect, while there remains a foundation of fact which prevents my answering the question, Are you or are you not a member of the Church of Rome? If I do not receive an answer from you to this question by the 28th ult., I shall conclude that there is a foundation of fact in these reports, and with this view I register this letter in the post-office, for safe delivery, so that no answer from you to the foregoing question shall be held by me as being acknowledgment by silence of the fact that you have participated in mass in a Roman Catholic church, and consequently that you are a member of the Church of Rome. I am, yours faithfully,

JAMES JOHNSTONE, Hon. Secretary.

Anti-Papal League, Edinburgh, Aug. 1.

Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.—Sir,—As no answer has been sent by you to my letter of the 21st ult., therefore the acting members of this league hold themselves warranted in believing that the reports referred to in it hold a foundation of fact, and if no reply is received by the 5th current to this registered letter, the acting members of this league will consider themselves at liberty to make use of this correspondence for the benefit of others. I am, yours faithfully,

JAMES JOHNSTONE, Hon. Secretary.

Anti-Papal League, Edinburgh, Aug. 7.

A. M. Cunynghame, Esq., Post-Office Secretary for Scotland.—Sir,—On the 10th ult. I registered at the head office here a letter addressed to W. B. Gurdon, Esq., 10, Downing-street, Whitehall, London, and on the 21st ult. and last current I registered at the head office on each of these days a letter addressed to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, 10, Downing-street, Whitehall, London. As I have received no answer to any of these three registered letters, I shall be obliged by your informing me if they were delivered to the parties above named. I am, yours faithfully,

JAMES JOHNSTONE, Hon. Secretary.

General Post Office, Edinburgh, Aug. 16.

Sir,—I beg to inform you that the registered letters alluded to in your communication of the 7th inst. were duly delivered as addressed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. W. HALLIBURTON, pro Secretary.

J. Johnstone, Esq., Anti-Papal League, 16, Princes-street,

Edinburgh.

PARLIAMENTARY MORTALITY DURING THE LATE SESSION.—During the Session just ended seven members of the House of Commons have died—viz., Mr. Charles Buxton, forty-eight years of age; Mr. Davison, Judge-Advocate-General, forty-five; Mr. E. Howes, fifty-eight; Colonel Leslie, forty-nine; Mr. Meynell Ingram, fifty-one; Mr. Pollard-Urquhart, fifty-six; and Mr. Sidebottom, forty-six. The average age of the deceased members is fifty. Since the beginning of the year there have been, from various causes, twenty elections, and the members returned may be classified as nine Liberals, nine Conservatives, and two Nationalists. The Conservatives have gained seats at Durham, Hereford, and Newry, while the Liberals won one seat at Stalybridge. The seat in East Surrey is the only one which is now vacant.—The mortality amongst the members of the House of Lords—which, as a rule, is much higher than the death-rate of the House of Commons—has, thus far during the present year, stood at precisely the same figure. The following seven peers have died:—Earl of Aylesford, forty-six; Lord Berners, seventy-one; Lord Dorman, eighty-one; Lord Hastings, forty-nine; Earl of Kingston, forty; Lord Plunket, seventy-seven; Marquis of Westmeath, eighty-five. The average age of the deceased peers, sixty-four.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll at Inverary, which was fixed for Saturday (to-day), has been indefinitely postponed, a communication having been received by the Duke from Earl Granville, at Balmoral, expressing her Majesty's regret that, owing to the state of her health, she would not be able to come on the day mentioned.

PRINCE ARTHUR presented new colours, last Saturday afternoon, to the 103rd (Royal Bombay) Fusiliers at Parkhurst, where the regiment is now quartered. The ceremony was performed in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Germany, and was witnessed by an immense number of spectators. The "consecration" of the colours was performed by the Bishop of Winchester.

THEIR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF GERMANY, accompanied by their family and suite, left Osborne on Tuesday, on board the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, for Antwerp, on their return to Germany.

MR. BRIGHT'S HEALTH justifies the hope that he will be able to return to his Parliamentary duties next Session, as completely restored to mental and physical vigour as was the case after the illness of similar character and duration which befel him fifteen years ago.

BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS has given £50 to the fund for preserving Epping Forest.

MR. JOHN GILBERT, the distinguished artist, is shortly to receive the honour of knighthood.

MR. ADAM RANKINE, B.A., of Balliol College, Oxford, has been appointed one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools.

DR. ARTHUR FARRE, F.R.S., of Hertford-street, Mayfair, has been appointed by the Council of the Royal College of Physicians Harveian Orator for the ensuing year.

MR. RICHARD NATHANIEL PHILLIPS, of the Inner Temple, has been appointed Recorder of Pontefract, in succession to Mr. Hannay, the new police magistrate. Mr. Phillips, who was called to the Bar in 1841, and who goes the Northern Circuit, is a magistrate for Yorkshire and Middlesex and a member of the Corporation of London.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL announces, in his last annual report, that he has appointed medical officers to twenty-five additional post offices in the provinces, whose duties will chiefly consist in attending all sick employes in the post office whose incomes do not exceed £150 a year.

MONSIEUR DUPANLOUP is preparing a work on "The Situation," which will make as profound a sensation as any of his writings under the Empire.

THE ASSOCIATION OF CARPENTERS AT BERLIN have resolved upon a strike until the masters agree to a rise of 25 per cent in wages and a reduction of the hours of labour to nine and a half.

A BOAT containing six young men was capsized in the Solent on Sunday morning, and one of them, Alfred Hopgood by name, who was a good swimmer, was drowned in his successful endeavours to save the life of another. Many other fatal boating and bathing accidents are reported.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE FOR INFANTS, Hornsey-rye, have been favoured a second time with a donation of £1000 from their anonymous friend "D. N.," which comes opportunely, as they are endeavouring to raise funds to pay the outstanding liabilities, amounting to the sum of £2900.

PETER BOOTH, a Prestwich newsagent, has been sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for stealing a voting-paper at the last election for the Prestwich Local Board.

THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION has been holding its annual meeting this week at Weymouth, and, though the weather proved somewhat unfavourable, members have had before them a very interesting programme.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCES, arising out of trade disputes, occurred at Hawthorn's factory, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday and Tuesday. As some of the imported workmen were returning from dinner they were set upon by a mob and stoned. Two workmen and another man received considerable injuries. Disturbances of a less serious nature have taken place at Sir William Armstrong's factory.

A SHOCKING ACCIDENT occurred on Monday evening at a coal-level in the Rhodda Valley, near Pontypidd. An old man named Isaac John and his son, who were working near a fault, were about leaving off work to return home, when a huge mass of stone fell and killed both father and son on the spot.

THE NEW LINE OF TRAMWAY extending from Brixton church to Water-lane, Brixton-hill, was opened for public traffic on Monday, and the cars during the day were well filled with passengers. The entire route is now three miles and a half, and no additional increase in the fares is made.

THE STEAMER ARCTIC arrived at Dundee from the whale-fishing, on Saturday, with a cargo of thirty-seven whales, which are calculated to yield 200 tons of oil. This is said to be the largest cargo ever brought from the Arctic regions to Dundee.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE BRITISH HOME FOR INCURABLES acknowledge, with thanks, a third donation of £1000 to the funds of the charity from G. D. T.

THE STRIKE OF THE COLLIERIES in South Wales has been terminated by an agreement between the legal representatives of the masters and men; and it is expected that in the course of a few days all the pits will be at work. The strikes at Leeds and Newcastle continue, and at the latter place there has been some rioting.

A BIKENHEAD BUTCHER, named Joseph Johnson, has been prosecuted at the instance of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for cruelly ill-treating his dog. It was proved that he had attempted to kill it by striking it on the head with an axe, but that before it was dead he began to skin it. The prisoner was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, without the option of a fine.

MARY HARMER, the wife of a labourer at Stow Bedon, on Tuesday, cut the throat of her infant daughter, aged fifteen months, as well as that of her step-daughter, an idiot girl, eighteen years of age. Seven years ago the woman was insane, and twelve months ago she attempted to destroy her own life. Mrs. Harmer has been committed for trial by the coroner's jury for wilful murder.

MRS. ROWLAND WILLIAMS is collecting materials for a memoir of her late husband, Dr. Rowland Williams, and will be much obliged to any correspondents who may be possessed of letters from him if they will intrust them to her, with a view to publication, at Woodlea, Grassendale, Liverpool.

A MAN NAMED GEORGE ILES, eighty years old, was killed, on Sunday, while attempting to cross the South-Western Railway at Wimbledon. A train was approaching a level crossing when the deceased attempted to pass, and a signalman warned him; but he nevertheless went on. The engine caught him up, carried him some distance, and left his body very much disfigured.

AN ADVERTISEMENT in *Le Sport* announces the sale in the Cour Visconti of the Louvre of sixty-six carriages—landaus, barchoues, victorias, coupés, phaetons, broughams, stailhopes, breakes, chaises à banc, omnibuses, &c.—formerly belonging to the "Liste Civile," or, in other words, to the Emperor, proceeding from the former Imperial stables, as the wording of the announcement delicately puts it.

MR. DEPUTY M'DUGALL, a member of the Court of Common Council, has intimated his wish to be allowed to place a handsome stained-glass window in the Guildhall, and, the offer having been accepted, the work will now be executed under the direction of the City Lands Committee. Another window, the gift of Mr. Alderman Cotton, will be inserted about the same time.

THE SECOND MATE of the American ship Rochester, which put into Queenstown leaky, has been arrested on a charge of shooting a sailor named Trott. As the vessel was leaving the Canada Dock, Liverpool, an altercation occurred, during which Nicholson drew a revolver and fired two shots, one of which took effect in Trott's leg. The revolver was afterwards found in Nicholson's possession.

A LARGE EXCURSION PARTY in connection with the Order of Druids left Birkenhead, on Monday, for Chester. In the course of the afternoon a man named Jones, residing at Birkenhead, hired a small boat, and he and his family, numbering five persons, entered it for a row on the Dee. They had scarcely left the landing-place when the boat capsized, and four out of the five occupants of the boat were drowned, the fifth being rescued in a state of great exhaustion.

THE FORESTERS' FETE at the Crystal Palace—one of the gayest events of the year in that pleasant place of resort—came off on Tuesday. The quaint holiday costumes of Robin Hood, Little John, Maid Marian, Will Scarlet, and other famous outlaws of Merrie Sherwood, gave a fantastic character to the festival, and the weather being charming, the many thousands of visitors present enjoyed a most agreeable outing.

MR. FARRAH, a publisher in the Strand, was charged on Tuesday, at Bow-street, with having published a libel upon Edward Walter Pook, the young man recently tried for the murder of Elizabeth Clousen, at Eitham. The libel consisted of a pamphlet, in which the trial was discussed. Mr. Farrah, M.P., who appeared for the defendant, expressed the regret of his client that he had published the pamphlet, which he did in the belief that it was a fair comment on the trial in question. The defendant was committed, two sureties of £50 each being accepted.

THE LOUNGER.

If any of my readers have decided to visit North Wales I advise them before they start to secure beds or lodgings, if they wish to take lodgings. If they do not take this advice, they will probably find themselves in the street, with every door shut against them. A resident friend here, at Bettws-y-Coed, secured lodgings for me beforehand, but my lodgings not being ready for me, I had, as there was no room at either of the inns, to "sleep out" in a very small room in the roof of a cottage—I say sleep, but for several hours I could get no sleep, not because the bed was hard, though it might have been softer, nor because there were fleas or other hopping or creeping things in the bed, for, though everything in the room was very plain—somewhat rough, indeed—all was beautifully clean. That which did murder sleep was this—my room was separated from the passage and from the next chamber by a thin deal partition. In this room the master of the house was sleeping, and he serenaded me with unmelodious music through his nose. In short, he loudly snored. In the passage a cat added her shrill treble to her master's bass. At last, wearied with this untimely music, I shouted, "Turn out that cat!" Hereupon there was a rush from the adjoining room. "Get out with you!" said a woman's voice, and away went one annoyance. Whether the nasal music continued I know not, for I, too, sank forthwith into "the arms of porpus," as Mrs. Malaprop has it, and did not awake until the sun, high in the heavens, looked through my dormer window. I rose, as I heard a great Scotch preacher say once, "mighty refreshed;" and having performed my ablutions as well as I could with about a quart of water and one towel not bigger than a good-sized pocket handkerchief, in less than three-quarters of an hour I was on the well-known Beaver Bridge, looking down upon the beautiful River Lledr below, and anon up at the towering rocks, all clothed with luxuriant trees from base to top. And here let me say that never did green Wales look so green and beautiful as it does this year. When I came down here three years ago the meadows were parched; the trees, smitten by the fierce heat, had turned prematurely yellow. Now the cattle in the meadows are up to their hocks in grass, whilst from the trees not a leaf is gone, nor is there on them one sear and yellow speck discoverable. I have not been to Llandudno, nor shall I go; for there, I am told, are all sorts of discomforts and abominations: distracted excursionists frantically seeking for beds and finding none; German bands, which we know so well in London—a clarinet and four brass instruments, all more or less out of tune; organs, with monkeys; artificial nigger melodists, acrobats, &c. The station-master at the small station at Llandudno Junction, where the Llandudno line branches off from the Chester and Holyhead Railway, says that in the course of one day last week he took 1400 tickets. Most of the holders of these tickets—say at least 1000—were for Llandudno, and Llandudno was then chock-full. Poor wretches! One cannot think of them without pity. Many of them, no doubt, were well-to-do people, delicately brought up, and all unused to rough it; others were excursionists, come down for a few days—husbands and wives and children, and amongst the latter babies. Let us hope that none had literally to camp out, for the nights here are very cold, and oftentimes wet and stormy. I suspect that somehow they all got housed, if not in a veritable house, in railway carriages, bathing-machines, or outhouses. When I heard of the troubles of these people my small chamber, the unmelodious music notwithstanding, on looking back at it, seemed a palace.

So Parliament is up at last! Let us all be grateful therefor; at least, we ought to be, who have had professionally to attend the sittings of the House, to listen to the interminable talk, that we might report the same or comment thereon. Better be in that aforesaid chamber in a cottage roof, disturbed by nasal and feline unmelodious music at three o'clock in the morning, than be seated in the gallery impatiently listening to a solemn diatribe by the hon. member for North Warwickshire, a denunciation of Jesuitism and the Pope by the fanatical member for Peterborough, or the clack-clack of a certain Scotch member who never left until the House had adjourned, and who found something to clack about at the last moment. I am rather fond of some sorts of Scotch accent—Carlyle's (by-the-way, your own, Mr. Editor), for example; but the clack-clack of that aforesaid Scotch member is as painful to my ears, especially between two and three in the morning, as the harsh notes of a Scotch bagpipe played by her Majesty's piper, or grace before the annual feast of the subscribers to the Scottish Hospital; and that is saying a good deal. But there is much in time and place. The hon. member's accent would not be disagreeable, perhaps, at mid-day in Glasgow; and I suspect that the sound of the bagpipe, so harshly dissonant at the London Tavern, might be pleasant enough in the valley of the Conway—at a proper distance. But, to return to our muttons.

The Session is over, and all our able editors are criticising it, and almost all with severity. Not all; for the *Scotsman*, which, by a singular chance, I see for the present down here (I have a Scot from Edinburgh, a kinsman of mine, in my party), criticises the doings of the Session very ably (whatever Mr. Russell does he does well) and very impartially, censuring what is censurable, praising what is praiseworthy—summing up, in short, not as a retained advocate, but as an upright Judge. And really this Session, much as it has been abused, has been fruitful of some good things. Army purchase has been abolished; that foul stain upon our national character has been wiped out. "Yes," some may say, "but how has it been done?" Never mind. It is done, and done for ever. And, considering the value of the thing, we won't inquire too closely into the manner of the doing of it. A huge incubus upon our Army has been removed; and, though at last it had to be taken off by sharp and somewhat irregular surgical practice, I for one must and will rejoice that it is gone. The *Scotsman* says that this is the one big job of the Session; and it is a big job, a vastly bigger job than the general British public imagine. But the passing of the University Tests Bill is no inconsiderable job, when we come to think of it. Fifty years ago a man known to you, Sir, then a youth, had to choose a profession, or rather his guardians had to choose one for him. He had been to a classical school, and had done so well there that it was thought he might win an exhibition, and go to Oxford, and with his exhibition and his own small property keep himself respectably there. And this arrangement seemed to be quite feasible. But he was a Disenter, and that avenue to fame, or say a living, was inexorably closed against him. That was the state of things fifty years ago. But now, if the said man were young, and minded to push his way upwards through that avenue, he would find the gate wide open—not only the outer gate, but the inner gate, and the passage clear of all priestly and other obstructions, into the very sanctum sanctorum of the Temple—might, indeed, become, in plain terms, one of the governing body of the University. Well, the last gate was opened, the last obstruction was removed, during the late Session. And is this nothing? The young generation may think so; but I, Mr. Editor, having watched for weary years the struggling and battling, and I may say, done my share as a humble private soldier in this holy war against priestly intolerance, must think that this, too, is no mean victory. No doubt there is still something to be done. We must throw open those clerical fellowships. But this is very little compared with what we have already achieved. Then the Ballot Bill, though not carried, has made a vast stride. It has at a bound got out of the region of theory into the region of fact. It was lately a remote possibility; now it looms before us as a fact, speedily with absolute certainty to be realised. Nor has any time been lost, as the opponents of the ballot allege. We knew that the Lords would throw out the bill, at least once. They have done, and that step in the progress of the measure has been gained. Next year they will have the bill before them again, and will they again throw it out? I doubt it. And so, readers, it was not, as the Conservatives tell us, a waste of time to push this bill through the House. Nay, Mr. Editor, I consider that this,

too, was a big job; and, if this be so, who will say that the Session of 1871 has been entirely barren? Does Lord Elcho, or Mr. Beresford-Hope, or, passing by such small fry, does the Leader of her Majesty's Opposition, think that this Session has been barren? Not he. He knows better, and, having listened to his speeches and watched him closely, I hesitate not to say that he rejoices that the Session has been fruitful of the Army Abolition of Purchase Bill and the University Tests Bill; at least, on both these bills he was remarkably reticent, and if he ever spoke in favour of Army purchase or University exclusiveness he did not speak heartily, but rather damned them with faint praise.

"But the Government has certainly blundered and muddled this Session." Yea, verily. The Chancellor of the Exchequer muddled. The Home Secretary muddled awfully. Nor is Goschen clear of the charge of blundering in the matter of his Local Government, &c., Bill. Neither can we entirely acquit Mr. Forster; witness the Pharmacy Bill. But it must be admitted that said Government was very unfortunate. But more of this next week.

THE ANGLO-CANADIAN BOAT-RACE.—The Anglo-Canadian boat-race, which came off at St. John, New Brunswick, on Wednesday, terminated in an equally unexpected and unhappy manner. It appears that the Tyne and Paris (St. John) crews got away well together; but, at the end of the first mile, the Canadians shot ahead, whilst their English antagonists were brought to a sudden standstill. Renforth, their famous stroke oar, had been seized with a fit, and the race was, in fact, over. The Canadians rowed the remainder of the course alone. Poor Renforth was landed immediately, and within an hour breathed his last.

THE COUNT DE CHAMBORD, according to the *Etoile Belge*, met with some inconveniences before leaving Belgium. Two of the Count's friends, who thought an article in the *Journal de Bruges* treating of the monarchy by right divine offensive, went to the proprietor of that journal, when a lively altercation took place. In consequence of a complaint made, the Burgomaster of Bruges went to Brussels to consult the Government, which recommended the Count to moderate the zeal of his followers and to recall them to the usages of modern civilised societies. The consequence was the departure of the Count and his train.

LABOURERS' MODEL COTTAGES.—Some old cottages in the village of Quatt, on the Dudmaston estates, in Shropshire, have been pulled down, and are being replaced with blocks of new buildings, arranged on improved principles with regard to health, comfort, and convenience. Each block contains three cottages; each dwelling having an entrance porch, staircase, living-room, scullery, pantry, coal and wood house, and three up-stairs bedrooms, except the centre dwellings, which have been arranged to meet the requirements of smaller families, and are provided with two up-stairs bedrooms. Each cottage has a baking-oven, sink, pump, hard and soft water supply, is thoroughly drained and ventilated, and is provided with the usual fittings and conveniences. Similar dwellings are also being built on the Broxbournebury estates, in Hertfordshire; the Overton estates, in Shropshire; the Dirliton estates, in South Wales; the Blethmore and Rowfant estates, in Sussex; and on the Crouch-land and Alford Park estates, in Surrey: all from the designs and under the direction of Mr. John Birch, of London.

NEW SUBWAY AT BLACKFRIARS STATION.—In consequence of the extensive works now in course of construction at the Blackfriars station, the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company has been obliged to inclose Holland-street, which it intends to absorb into the goods station. Although, however, the company under their Parliamentary powers are enabled to do this, they are at the same time providing for pedestrian traffic, by the construction, under Holland-street, of a subway under Blackfriars-road to the point on the east of the station where Holland-street is continued in a north-easterly direction. The subway is about eighty-three yards in length, four yards in width, and upwards of six yards in depth from the street level to the foot-way below. It will be approached from Blackfriars-road and the east side of the railway by a wide and commodious flight of steps. The entire length of the subway has been completed, and the approaches will shortly be finished, when the street will be closed and the subway opened for foot passengers only, the company having provided for vehicles by constructing a new street, diverting Holland-street into Southwark-street. The whole of the works will shortly be completed.

PARLIAMENTARY DIVISIONS.—The divisions which took place in the House of Commons during the past Session were 270 in number. Of these thirty-three were upon the Army Regulation Bill—six upon the second reading of the measure, six upon going into Committee, eighteen in Committee, one upon consideration of the bill as amended, one upon the third reading, and the remaining one upon the consideration of Lords' amendments. There were seventy-three divisions upon the Ballot Bill, of which three were taken prior to going into Committee, sixty-nine in Committee, and one upon consideration of the bill as amended. Upon the University Tests Bill there were five divisions, and on going into Committee of Ways and Means six, of which three were upon Mr. Lowe's proposed duty on lucifer matches, two upon the increase of income tax, and one upon the proposed additional taxation. The Trades Unions Bill caused three and the Turnpike Acts Continuance Bill four divisions. Six divisions took place on the Sunday Observance Prosecutions Bill, and eight upon the Burials Bill. There were five divisions upon the Ecclesiastical Titles Act Repeal Bill, two upon the Epping Forest Bill, five upon the Local Government Bill, four upon the Table of Lessons Bill, and five upon the Westminster Outrages Bill. Upon the proposal to grant an annuity to Prince Arthur there were two divisions, and one upon the proposition of a dowry for Princess Louise.

ALARMING ACCIDENT TO A MAIL-TRAIN.—On Tuesday morning, at a few minutes after six o'clock, an accident happened, on the Midland Railway, to the mail-train from Leeds, at the Mount Sorrel Junction, between Sileby and Barrow-on-Sear, and eight miles from Leicester. Several waggons belonging to a goods-train from Leicester to the north had broken loose, when a goods-train in the rear ran into them and knocked the waggons on to the up line. Just at that time the mail-train came up from the north at full speed, and ran into them again with fearful force. The waggons were smashed to atoms, and the road greatly damaged. The passenger-carriages sustained comparatively slight injuries. The engines of the last goods and mail train were knocked off the road, the latter being thrown down the embankment. Not more than six persons have been seriously injured by the collision, the mail-train being, fortunately, a light one. The driver, Perkins, who sustained a compound fracture of the leg, during the day had the limb amputated, and lies at Derby in a precarious state. The fireman escaped unhurt. The carriages of the mail-train had their sides shattered through coming in contact with the empty waggon train, which had been previously capsized partially into the "six-foot" and up line. The morning was foggy, and the driver did not see the block in front; he, however, received a signal from the driver of the leading empty waggon on the down line, and signalled the first guard, Tapley, who says he applied his brake and "set his back up" for the collision which soon followed. The end of his van was knocked in, and he was stunned, but has now quite recovered. The up line was not cleared until noon, and all the traffic had to be worked upon it until the down line was cleared, late in the afternoon. The line itself was considerably damaged.

SIR ROUNDELL PALMER AND THE ROYAL WARRANT.—The following is Sir R. Palmer's letter on the Royal Warrant, which Mr. Cardwell read in the House of Commons:—"Tantallon House, North Berwick, Aug. 18, 1871.—My dear Cardwell,—I am afraid my answer to your letter will hardly arrive in time to be of use. I was surprised to see the reference made to me in Mr. Torrens's speech on Tuesday, and I need hardly assure you that as, on the one hand, my absence from London was due to no other cause whatever than my own private convenience (coupled with the belief that I should not be omitting any public duty which would require my continued presence in the House of Commons till the close of the Session), so, on the other, I have never expressed myself to anyone in private on the subject of the Army Bill or the Royal Warrant in a manner different from that in which I have spoken to yourself, or so as in any way to account for the introduction of my name into Tuesday's debate. I have always thought and said that the issuing of such a warrant was within the undoubted power of the Crown; though to do so without having a sufficient assurance that Parliament would provide the necessary compensation for the officers, who would otherwise suffer by such an exercise of Royal power, would not be just, and therefore would not be consistent with the spirit of the Constitution, which vests all such powers in the Crown, in the confidence, and for the purpose, that right, not wrong, shall be done. I should have been glad if it had been generally and clearly understood from the beginning that, subject to the sense of Parliament being ascertained with reference to the point of compensation, the form of procedure would be that which was eventually adopted, because it is certainly an evil that the adoption of one constitutional mode of procedure, rather than another, should appear to arise from an adverse vote of the House of Lords. But I consider that the votes of the House of Commons had practically settled the question of compensation, as it was impossible that the Lords should exercise their power merely to prevent justice being done to the officers of the Army; and, this being so, as the permanent continuance of the purchase system had evidently become impossible, and as any unnecessary delay in putting an end to it must have been most injurious to the organisation of the Army, and most unjust to those officers who might want to sell out during the period of transition, it did, and does still, appear to me that the course which the Government took (after what I must always consider the ill-advised resolution of the House of Lords) was—as you express it—the least objectionable course which could be taken under the whole circumstances of the case."



ON THE MOORS: A SCENE IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS.



REGISTRATION IN WITTENBURG IN THE DAYS OF THE RHEINBUND. — (FROM A DRAWING BY STACHEN, OF MUNICH.)

THE HOME OF THE DEER.

"Accounts from the moors" are just now of more—we do not mean a pun, or we should have written "moor"—interest to some newspaper readers than telegrams from Paris or records of the proceedings of learned bodies. To learn that grouse is plentiful and the cover good, that the young birds are giving excellent sport, that such a season will do much to make up for the shyness of the game last year, and then to pass to some examples of the bags of famous sportsmen holding Scotch "shootings," will soon be among the pleasantest literary exercises of men who are only waiting for another post to bring a letter that will cause them gently to dust their favourite brown barrels, see to their gun-cases, treat their easiest heavy-soled boots with "dubbing," and consider the expediency of ordering a new suit of tweed of the right heather mixture. Even though a man may never go out with a gamekeeper, for the purpose of taking home several brace of birds, it is a pleasant pastime to lounge on the hillside, near some cairn-like pile of stone, with a crisp, springy, heathery knoll for a sofa, and there to look far away to the shining water of the loch and the mountain side, on which the clouds throw alternate shadow and glimpses of glorious colour. With a good flask of Glenlivet, well qualified from the mountain rummel, and a pipe stuffed either with the celebrated "Dingle" or some milder form of weed, one may take a rest listening to the sounds that betoken the proximity of the feathered game, while often amidst the wooded crags the peculiar cry and rustle of a stag brings the sleepy listener wide awake in a moment. Not very near, though, can the smoker come to the antlered beauties if the wind sets the whiff of his tobacco their way. The sentinels of the herd, standing on some peak where they can see an approaching intruder, sniff the air, and, with a toss of their gentle heads and a sweep of their antlers, away troop the whole company down to some lonely creek or stony margin of the lake (like that in our illustration), where they are far away from the interruption of the ordinary traveller. Probably a larger number than usual even of occasional tourists will make acquaintance with the deer this year; for the rejoicings at Inverary will take a host of cockney company above the hill-embosomed Kyles. On the high shores of the land about Loch Striven and Loch Fyne,—in and out the island mounds known by strange names, which are to be threaded by yachts starting from Rothesay and wending towards Ardrishaig and Tigh-na-bruiach, and thence to Oban or to Staffa and Iona,—the dappled beauties may be seen at early morning poking their velvet muzzles out from the low wood, and, with their plaintive cry, coming through the tall heath. It is only the indefatigable sportsman or the sagacious pedestrian who knows where to find a canny guide, however, that can count on making the actual acquaintance of the wild creatures within an easy distance; only the accustomed hill-climber who knows his way about, or is in company with some "shepherd body" or old keeper, who can expect to come upon the track that leads to the home of the deer.

REQUISITIONING IN THE DAYS OF THE RHINEBUND.

REQUISITIONING, although we have heard so much of it lately, is not by any means a new process in war; and especially is it an old practice in German wars. Wallenstein made war keep itself more than 200 years ago; and Napoleon I. so far improved on the system of the great Imperialist commander that he managed not only to make war keep itself, but to yield a profit besides—in works of art and other valuable articles, if not in cash. Germany especially suffered under the Napoleonic system, and hence a great deal of the bitterness towards France which existed in the Fatherland up to last year, at all events, if it does not do so still, notwithstanding that the Germans have had their revenge and done an extensive business in requisitioning on their own account and at the expense of their old enemy. What was most provoking in the French mode of making war keep itself was that no distinction was made between friend and foe—all were fleeced alike. Even after Bonaparte had formed the Confederation of the Rhine—or the Rhinebund, as the Germans called it—over which he presided, and which comprised most of the small States which had formerly been included in the German Empire, the same practices were continued. The legions of the French Republic, and subsequently of the Empire, were in fact a people in arms, who, as their proclamations said, fought against "tyrants" only. But how did they treat the peoples they conquered, or came to liberate? The accounts of the cities and communes in which they sojourned tell a by no means pleasant tale: they requisitioned right and left, on private as well as on public account. How they treated the inhabitants of the Wurtemberg villages is depicted in our Engraving after Herr Stauber's picture. The dinner prepared by the peasant's wife for those soldiers who professedly "carried civilisation" into the countries they visited is thrown upon the floor and kicked about, while the poor peasant's little stock of wine is appropriated with great freedom, and the good wife is made to understand that her chickens are the only things good enough for the palates of those "friends of humanity" and "liberators of nations." It is easy to understand that such conduct did not tend to beget kindly feelings between the conquerors and the conquered—for such the States included in the Confederation of the Rhine were, though they were presumed to have voluntarily joined the Bund; and consequently the dissolution of that federation by the treaties of 1815 was everywhere hailed as a real deliverance.

THE AUTUMN CAMPAIGN.—The following will be the distribution of the force to be concentrated at Aldershot at the end of this month.—H.R.H. the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief in supreme command. First Division.—One lieutenant-general and staff, commanding division; three major-generals and staff, commanding brigades; one cavalry and two infantry brigades, 10,405; officers, 453; total, 10,858; guns, three batteries; to be concentrated about Sept. 11 at Easthamstead, Chobham, and Sandhurst. Second Division.—One major-general and staff, commanding division; two major-generals and one staff, commanding brigades; one cavalry and two infantry brigades, 10,176; officers, 416; total, 10,592; guns, three batteries; to be concentrated on or about Friday, Sept. 8, at Hartfordbridge Flats, Bramshill. Third Division.—One major-general and staff, commanding division; two major-generals and one colonel and staff, commanding brigades; one cavalry and two infantry brigades; non-commissioned officers and men, 10,250; officers, 433; total, 10,683; guns, three batteries; this force to be concentrated on or about Saturday, Sept. 9.—Army and Navy Gazette.

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF PATENT LAWS.—The Hon. Charles Mason, an eminent ex-Commissioner of Patents, has written Mr. George Haseltine, M.A., chairman of the meeting which passed the resolutions on "Patent Law Reform," reported by us last month, an instructive letter on the subject, an abstract of which we append:—"I have," he says, "never had any serious doubt of the wisdom of a judicious system of patent laws. The public welfare is best promoted by inspiring individual effort in respect to invention, through the motive of private gain; and who can more justly claim the exclusive use of any property than he who has brought it into being? The American system of examination is productive of much advantage to inventors and the public, but I doubt the wisdom of lodging in officials an unlimited power of rejection. If the duties of examiners were advisory and adjuvant, reserving to an applicant the ultimate right to a patent, at his own risk, the chief objection to this system would be removed. The fees by all means should be small—barely sufficient to defray the expenses of the patent-office. Inventors are benefactors, and, as a class, are poorly compensated for their labour. The imposition of large fees discourages invention, and thereby checks the progress of civilisation. This cannot be sound policy. Experience leads me to the conclusion that patents should be granted for more than fourteen years; but this term, in most cases of merit, is extended by our office to twenty-one, and often by Congress to twenty-eight years. The new law limits the term of a patent to seventeen years, which will, no doubt, hereafter be extended; and I do not think twenty-one years too long a period for the original grant. In one respect I like your system better than ours—your fees are paid in instalments, giving the patentee the option of keeping his patent alive. The French plan of annuities is carrying the matter rather too far. I think the English system better than the French or the American, and all that is needed is a reduced rate of fees. Experts are often very useful, but they are regarded with suspicion, and their opinions have little weight in our courts; therefore what might be a great evil carried, in some measure, its own remedy; and the interposition of jurors in patent suits is generally avoided by obtaining injunctions in Chancery, which is our usual remedy for infringements."

THE EAST SURREY ELECTION.

THE nomination of candidates for East Surrey took place at Croydon on Monday. Mr. Leveson-Gower was proposed by Mr. Gassiot and seconded by Mr. Morley, M.P.; Mr. Watney was nominated by Sir Thomas Tilson, Chairman of the Surrey Sessions, and seconded by Mr. Lewis Lloyd. Each candidate having addressed the assembly, a show of hands was taken, and the result was declared to be in favour of Mr. Watney. A poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Leveson-Gower, which took place on Thursday, and resulted in the return of Mr. Watney by a majority of 1119, the votes polled being—Watney, 3889; Gower, 2770.

Before the Reform Act of 1832 (says the *Daily News*) had swept away fifty-six of the rotten boroughs, the county of Surrey returned sixteen members to the House of Commons—two for the county itself, and two each for the boroughs of Southwark, Guildford, Haslemere, Gatton, Bletchingley, and Reigate. Gatton and Old Sarum (a very little place, situated about a mile and a half north of the city of Salisbury) were often quoted as the two most striking instances of the necessity for a redistribution of political power. Old Sarum, however, was the more glaring case of the two; for, while members continued to sit in its name, it had neither house nor inhabitant. Gatton, on the other hand, contained a population of about 180, although the members were returned by the proprietor of Gatton House. Lord John Russell's Reform Bill disfranchised Gatton, Haslemere, and Bletchingley altogether, and took one member from Reigate. On the other hand, it formed the county into two divisions, each sending two representatives, and created the borough of Lambeth, with two members; so that the net result was a loss of three seats. From 1832 until Mr. Disraeli's Reform Bill became law, in 1867, Surrey returned eleven members to Parliament, thus distributed: two for each division of the county, two each for Southwark, Guildford, and Lambeth, and one for Reigate. The Act of 1867 made no difference in the aggregate number of members sent by the county; for, while it disfranchised Reigate and took one seat from Guildford, it divided the county into three parts, and gave Mid Surrey (the new division) two members.

East Surrey, in which, owing to the lamented death of Mr. Buxton, an election is now pending, embraces some of the most populous parts of the metropolis south of the Thames. It includes within its area Southwark, as well as a large portion of the great borough of Lambeth, and there are nearly 11,000 electors upon the register. When the county was divided in 1832, the population was rather over 400,000, and the electors numbered 3150. At the first general election under the extended franchise, which took place in the winter of that year, Mr. John Ivatt Briscoe, who represented the western division from 1857 until his death in the autumn of last year, was returned in the Liberal interest with Mr. A. W. Beauclerk. The polling was very low, Mr. Briscoe's supporters numbering 1643 and those of Mr. Beauclerk 1155. The Tory candidate, a Mr. J. T. Allen, polled only 835. Two years afterwards came the memorable "Conservative reaction," when Sir Robert Peel, having been called to power after the King had dismissed the Whig Ministry, made it his first business to dissolve the Parliament which had been summoned by Earl Grey in the first flush of the excitement which had succeeded the passing of the Reform Bill. Amongst the constituencies in which the reaction was experienced was East Surrey, where a Tory candidate, Mr. R. Alsager, stood at the head of the poll with 1578 votes; Mr. Beauclerk, the Liberal member of the previous Parliament, was second, with 1324; and Mr. Briscoe was defeated. In August, 1837, a dissolution necessarily followed upon the death of William IV., and, as the deeds of the Melbourne Administration were not of a character to inspire much enthusiasm, Mr. Alsager again came in at the head of the poll, bringing in Mr. Henry Kemble as his colleague in the Conservative interest. The Liberal candidates were Mr. Locke-King, one of the present members, and Mr. John Angerstein, and they were defeated by about 300 votes. During the winter of 1840 Mr. Alsager died; and on the issue of a writ, in February, 1841, Sir Edmund Antrobus, who now sits as a Liberal for Wilton, offered himself as a Conservative. He was opposed by Mr. Thomas Alcock, a gentleman of good local position, then forty years of age. He had represented the disfranchised borough of Newton, in Lancashire, in the unreformed House of Commons, and afterwards sat for Ludlow. But the Whig Administration had muddled the finances; there was an increasing demand for "Protection;" and, as the party then in power had ruled, with a brief interregnum, for nearly ten years, there was a general desire for a change. Mr. Alcock, however, bravely fought a losing battle. He was defeated by the enormous majority of 1200; and when Lord Melbourne dissolved Parliament, in the July following, it was felt to be hopeless to renew the contest. Mr. Kemble and Sir E. Antrobus were therefore returned without opposition.

The general election of 1847 introduces us to a new phase in the political history of East Surrey. Sir Robert Peel's majority of ninety, elected to retain the corn laws, had swept them away; and, after the resignation of the right hon. Baronet, the Conservative party was in such a chaotic state that this division, which the Liberals were unable to assail six years before, was now surrendered to them without a blow. Mr. Locke-King, who has sat for the constituency ever since, was then elected in conjunction with Mr. Alcock. In 1852, Lord Derby having taken office, a final appeal to the country was made upon the expediency of reviving Protection, and East Surrey was one of the constituencies attacked by the Tory party. The struggle terminated in the triumphant return of the Liberal candidates. Mr. Alcock was at the head of the poll with 2508 votes; Mr. Locke-King was only eight behind him. Sir E. Antrobus and the present Baron Cleasby were beaten by 436 and 572 respectively. In 1857 Lord Palmerston, having been defeated in the House of Commons on his Chinese policy, went to the nation, to use a phrase of Mr. Milner Gibson, "riding on the British Lion." In East Surrey there was no opposition to the return of Mr. Alcock and Mr. Locke-King. When the general election of two years afterwards took place a Conservative Government was again in office, and, on the principle that every vote was of importance as assisting to keep them there, an attack was made upon one of the seats in this division, Mr. Anthony Cleasby again offering himself. He was in a minority of 900. Then came the six-year-old Parliament of Lord Palmerston's second Ministry, and when the aged Minister went to the constituencies for the last time in July, 1865, the severest contest which ever took place in East Surrey was fought. Mr. Alcock retired, and Mr. Charles Buxton came forward in his stead. When the poll closed at five o'clock in the afternoon of July 18—the same day which witnessed the beginning of Mr. Gladstone's famous campaign in South Lancashire—Mr. Locke-King had secured 3495 votes, and Mr. Buxton 3424. Mr. W. H. Peek and the Hon. W. Brodrick (now Viscount Middleton), both of whom were elected for Mid-Surrey three years afterwards, were defeated—one by only 90 votes, and the other by 198. At the dissolution which took place in November, 1868, when the appeal was made on the expediency of disestablishing the Irish Church, the Conservatives made another effort to regain that footing in the representation which they had lost more than twenty years before. They once more put forward two of their strongest candidates—Mr. William Hardman, one of the deputy chairmen of the Surrey Sessions, and Mr. James Lord. These gentlemen were, however, worsted by larger majorities than those by which Messrs. Peek and Brodrick were excluded from Parliament in 1865. Mr. Locke-King, an earnest and sincere Liberal, who through evil and through good report had made repeated attempts in the House of Commons to extend the county franchise, once more headed the poll. His supporters numbered 4162, and Mr. Buxton mustered 3941. The Conservatives were 400 votes behind.

It will have been seen that amid all the contests in East Surrey since the division of the county, nearly forty years ago, in only one—that of 1835—was the representation divided. While the Liberals led off with both seats in 1832, and the Conservatives held the division from 1837 to 1847, since the latter date no Tory candidate has been successful.

THE STRANDING OF THE AGINCOURT.

THE Board of Admiralty have issued the following note in regard to the stranding of H.M.S. Agincourt:—

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have had under their consideration the circumstances in which her Majesty's ship Agincourt was stranded on the Pearl Rock, while proceeding with the squadron out of Gibraltar Bay, on July 1 last.

The court-martial which was recently held upon three officers of the Agincourt—Captain Beamish, Lieutenant Bell, and Staff Commander Knight—on a charge of having negligently stranded the ship, has pronounced that the charge was in each case proved; but, considering the attending circumstances under which the Agincourt was then being navigated, the Court only adjudged Captain Beamish and Staff Commander Knight to be severely reprimanded and admonished to be more careful in future, and adjudged Lieutenant Bell to be admonished to be more careful in future.

The evidence adduced at the trial was extensive and complete. Among other witnesses examined were Vice-Admiral Wellesley, who commanded the squadron in which the Agincourt was sailing, and who led the port division in the Minotaur; Rear-Admiral Wilmot, who was on board the Agincourt, leading the starboard division; Captain Wells and Staff Commander Kiddle, of the Minotaur; Captain Glyn and Staff Commander May, of the Warrior, and many others. The perusal of the evidence satisfies their Lordships that all the material facts connected with the stranding of the Agincourt were fully brought out, and that no further inquiry is necessary. They have, therefore, after careful deliberation, framed their final conclusions upon the whole case.

The general result at which their Lordships have arrived is that the stranding of the ship was occasioned by great negligence, in which other officers besides those who have been tried were concerned.

Their Lordships are of opinion that the primary cause of the disaster was clearly the unsafe course steered by the squadron, in obedience to signal from the flagship. It appears that Vice-Admiral Wellesley, on leaving Gibraltar, conducted the squadron under his command so close to the western shore of the bay that, with the weather fine and clear and the wind light, the leading ship of the inshore division struck on the Pearl Rock, and was in imminent danger of being wrecked.

Their Lordships cannot but feel that due care was not exercised by the Vice-Admiral in command to ensure that a safe course should be steered by his squadron, and they greatly regret that, with such large and valuable ships in his charge, he did not satisfy himself by examination of the course proposed, and by seeing them laid off on the chart, that the squadron would be taken a safe distance from a well-known and dangerous shoal.

Vice-Admiral Wellesley is a distinguished officer, who has rendered to his country good and faithful service; he has always enjoyed their Lordships' entire confidence; and their Lordships do not fail to remember that it was at their express request that he relinquished the command of the North American and West Indian station, and assumed that of the Channel squadron in October last. It is, therefore, with extreme regret that, in the performance of its duty, and with a view to impress upon all officers in command the necessity for the utmost vigilance and unremitting attention to the navigation of the ships entrusted to their care, their Lordships are constrained to mark their sense of his grave default on this occasion by directing him to strike his flag.

Their Lordships also recognise the former good service of Rear-Admiral Wilmot, but they must express their disapproval of his conduct on this occasion. A rear-admiral commanding a division in such circumstances was not merely responsible for maintaining the positions of the ships of his division with relation to the flag-ship of his commander-in-chief; it was his duty to have also informed himself of their position with reference to any danger in their course, and to have exercised a watchful care to keep them clear of such danger. Had Rear-Admiral Wilmot paid more attention to the navigation of the ships under his immediate orders he would not have suffered his flagship, leading the starboard division, to run on shore on a well-known shoal, in broad daylight, when the land and marks for clearing the shoal were distinctly visible.

Their Lordships have, with much regret, arrived at the conclusion that they must supersede Rear-Admiral Wilmot from his command.

The superseding of Vice-Admiral Wellesley and Rear-Admiral Wilmot will involve that of the Captains of the ships in which they carried their flags. The conduct of Captain Beamish has already been subjected to investigation by a court-martial, and their Lordships therefore refrain from comment upon it.

As regards Captain Wells, it is necessary to point out that he failed to make himself correctly acquainted with the real position of the ship under his command with reference to the dangerous shoal the squadron were passing. He approved and submitted to the Vice-Admiral a course which he ought to have known would inevitably lead the starboard division into dangerous proximity to the Pearl Rock.

The error committed by Staff-Commander Kiddle, the senior navigating officer of the flagship, in advising a course which was highly dangerous, can hardly be overrated. To this error, primarily, may be attributed the grounding of the Agincourt. Staff-Commander Kiddle has hitherto borne the character of a careful navigating officer, but after this event their Lordships can no longer consider it safe to leave the pilotage of the Channel squadron in his hands, and he will be placed upon half-pay.

Upon the conduct of Staff Commander Knight their Lordships do not offer any observation, as it has been dealt with by the court-martial.

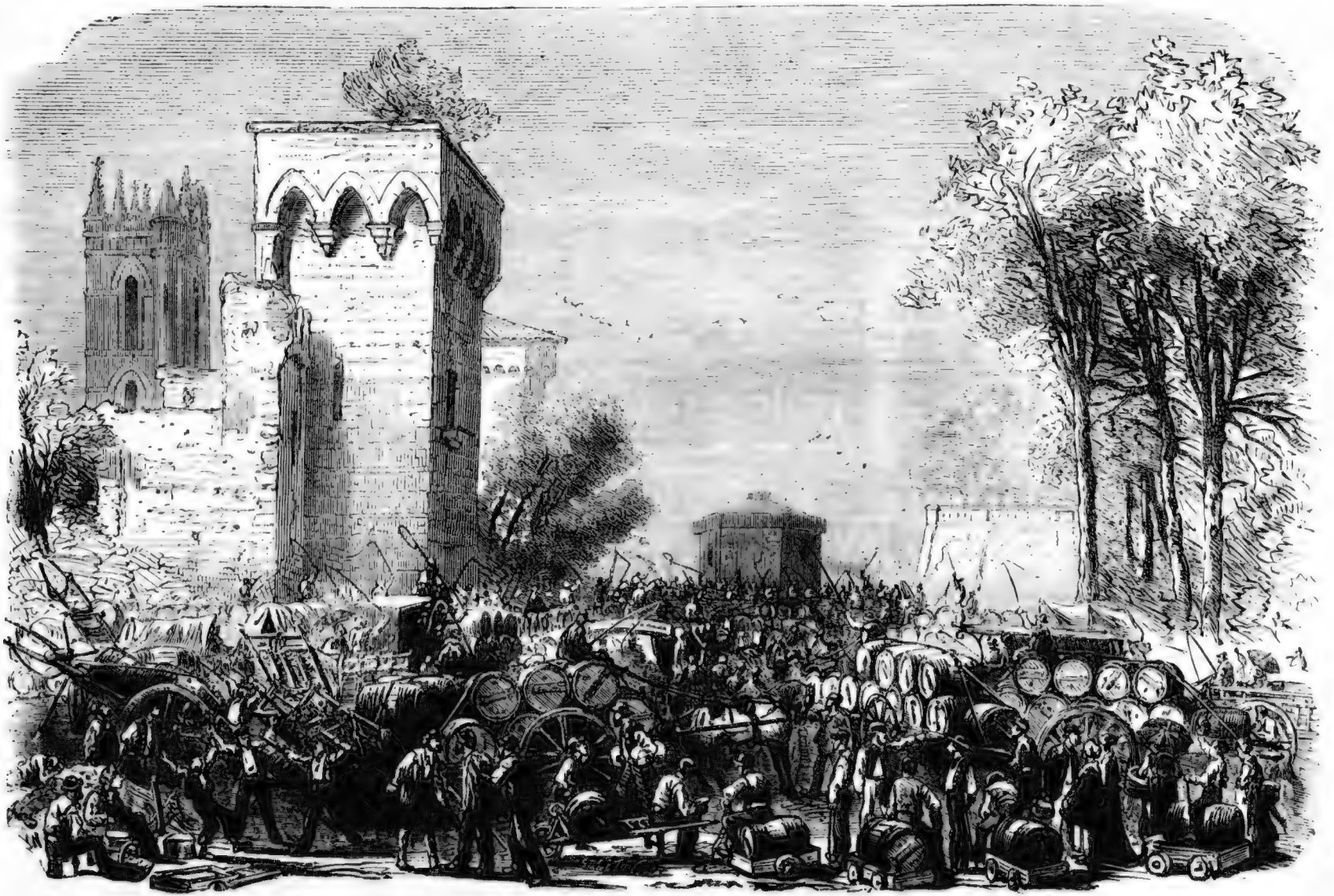
Their Lordships have had under their consideration the evidence given by the officers of the Warrior and Northumberland, the ships astern of the Agincourt. Their Lordships are of opinion that steps should have been taken by the Captains and navigating officers of those ships to apprise the Agincourt of the immediate danger into which she was standing.

Having thus performed the painful task of commenting on the want of care which led to the grave disaster, and of conveying to such officers responsible for its occurrence as were not dealt with by the court-martial the censure it calls for, their Lordships are glad to turn to the pleasing duty of expressing their approbation of the exertions made by the officers and men of the squadron, in lightening the Agincourt, and in rescuing her from her perilous position; and they expressly notice the skill exhibited by Captain Lord Gifford in rendering the assistance of the Hercules, as described in a despatch from Vice-Admiral Wellesley.

CATHEDRAL REFORM.—The choir of Gloucester Cathedral was reopened on Sunday, after having been closed for three years, and after having in the interim been beautified at a cost which, in the end, will be at least £13,000 of the £45,000 which is Mr. Scott's original estimate for the complete restoration of the cathedral. The preacher of the morning was the Bishop of the diocese, who dwelt upon the imposing ceremonial that had been witnessed within those walls during the 771 years that had passed since the first abbot entered, one summer's morning, in solemn procession. There had been the crowning of a Plantagenet King, the burial of a hapless successor, and the assembling of Convocation. The Bishop then referred to those who thought the Church of England would soon be reduced to the level of a sect among sects, and the venerable cathedrals and ancient parish churches placed at the disposal of every competing body of Christians or religionists. His opinion was that the English Church would stand all trial. In the course of his sermon, Dr. Elliott said:—"Let every cathedral more and more strive to free itself from its half-inherited, half-adopted collegiate system, from its closes and seclusions, and make itself not only the mother church of the city, but the parish church of the diocese, and then let it fearlessly face any trial which the stirring times in which we live may think fit to apply to it. It will stand the trial easily and securely, and will emerge from it stronger and more consolidated than before. Thank God, there is a feeling everywhere showing itself, not only amongst those without, but amongst those within, that these our noble buildings may be made more available for public worship, for holy and dignified services, and for spiritual and effective preaching."

be deemed established when a "president" is appointed under the statute.

[illegible]



BLOCK OF WINE AND GOODS TRAFFIC AT THE MONTPELIER RAILWAY STATION, FRANCE.



FRANCO-SWISS FETES AT MACON: EXCHANGE OF FLAGS.

SUDDEN GLUT OF WINE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

WHILE we are wondering what effect the war will have had on the supply of wines to England, intelligence reaches us from the south of France that the harvest, which is everywhere abundant, has itself not only been gathered with difficulty, but has put growers to their wits' end to know how to convey the wine to its destination. Twice a day trains have been appointed on the railway for the dispatch of wine cargoes, so that there has been a complete blockade all around the stations with the heavy wains and fourgons laden with the vintage of the country. At Beziers and Montpellier especially, the crush has been something terrific, and all other traffic has been impeded. In fact, everything and everybody had to make way for the hogsheads and runlets, and private carriages had a bad time of it, while other manufactures and merchandise were transported in whatever way demented rail- and merchandise could get them into the railway trucks. Our Engraving will convey some idea of the scene near the station of Montpellier.

SWISS FETES AT MACON.

If anything of a cheerful character can be at present associated with intelligence from France it might surely be the few and brief notices of the high festival just held at Macon on the occasion of the tir, or rifle-shooting match, to which the Swiss marksmen have been invited by the inhabitants of that vinous and pleasant town. Exception may, it is true, be taken to the warlike asso-

ciations of a rifle-match when France has just had so much of war; but there is something at bottom of the celebration which lifts it above the ordinary French notion of a military fête. The dismemberment of the National Guard, the national system of bearing arms which is to be adopted, make a "tir" in the Swiss pattern more than ordinarily significant; and, though there has been little rejoicing elsewhere, Macon has shown a robust determination to make the best of the circumstances. Imagine 3000 Swiss tirailleurs invading a little town of about 18,000 inhabitants! Their reception was more than cordial—it was effusive, it was enthusiastic, and in true French fashion; the people cheered and admired their guests for the qualities which they themselves now begin to see are so desirable in France—for an organisation which enables a free people to combine for the defence of their land. All this seemed to be expressed in the shouts of the crowd that waited to receive the stalwart, deep-chested fellows who, in voices that rung with a tone only to be acquired on mountain heights, returned the compliment with "Vive la France!" The Swiss columns marched in military order along the street which brought them to the fine wooded promenade formed by the quays in front of the Hôtel de Ville. There the Mayor pronounced a discourse appropriate to the occasion, and of course full of republican and democratic sentiments, which were adequately responded to by the guests drawn up with their national colours, the French National Guard, the shopkeepers, and the "blouses," assembled in an immense crowd

before the building. Afterwards the saloons of the Hôtel de Ville were devoted to the entertainment of the guests, for whom the tradespeople had asked permission to make provision. The shooting-place was in the large plain between the railway and the Saône, and there a vast canteen and numerous appliances for comfort were prepared on the Swiss model. Toasts were being drunk all day; and the wine of Macon, pure, healthy liquor as it is, must have been consumed in floods. The town itself was gaily decorated. One walked amidst flowers in the very streets on the day that the Swiss filed through, for they were pelted with them. At their head marched a corps of cadets of Basle, with fife and drums; then followed the celebrated bears of Berne, a carnivalesque addition to the procession that, customary as it is, made the good people of Macon merry; afterwards came the representatives of various cantons, with their distinguishing badges and uniforms, the latter being only slightly different, and the head gear being almost entirely confined to the white Swiss hat, with its green ribbon, ornamented with a rhododendron flower and the federal cockade. Of course, there were balls, concerts, and all the accessories of a French fête, finishing with a grand concert at the theatre and several minor concerts at the different cafés, where the toasts and songs were international and enthusiastic. Several presents were made by the guests to their hosts, consisting principally of flags, and this gave rise to a striking episode—the exchange of national flags at the Hôtel de Ville between the Maire and authorities of



PARISIAN INSURGENTS AWAITING THEIR FIRST EXAMINATION.

Macon and the Federal Commanders. Our Engraving represents this scene, by no means the least imposing of the whole series. In return for their generous presents and souvenirs, the town of Macon made a subscription for the sufferers by the inundations at Rheintal, and also presented the visitors with a handsome trophy representing a triumphal car, with the Swiss Republic, surrounded with twenty-two little cherubs, each with a garland of roses, and supposed to personify the various cantons of the Federation.

PARISIAN INSURGENT PRISONERS.

We have already described the condition of the insurgent prisoners captured on the taking of Paris, as they were to be seen in the camp at Satory and at Versailles; and we now publish an Engraving showing a group of these prisoners awaiting their preliminary examination. This "first interrogation" was a very tedious affair. There were over 30,000 prisoners, charged with various and unascertained degrees of criminality, and many of no degree of criminality at all; and a winnowing process had to be gone through in order to separate the sheep from the goats—in other words, to classify the accused in accordance with their real or assumed blameworthiness. Hence the delays that occurred in commencing the trials, and hence the necessity of having several courts-martial sitting at the same time to try different classes of prisoners.

Of course, the most important of these courts is that presided over by Colonel Merlin, before which the members of the Commune are arraigned. The proceedings here are now drawing to a close; the chief part of the evidence forthcoming has been

taken; the public prosecutor, Commandant Gaveau, has made his speech; and counsel for the defence commenced their pleadings on Wednesday. It seems to be generally thought by the correspondents of the English newspapers that the proofs adduced are not by any means conclusive of the guilt of most of the accused of anything save complicity in the rebellion—a political and not a common law crime; and that a great deal of evidence—such as hearsay stories—has been admitted that would not be listened to for a moment in a British court of justice. However, they manage these things differently—if not so well—in France; and convictions are pretty sure to follow. The following is the substance of Commandant Gaveau's speech:—

The Commissary of the Republic said he proposed to show the origin and the development of those connected bodies—the International, the Central Committee, and the Commune. He asked for the indulgence of the Court, on the ground that the case had been entrusted to his hands at the last moment, after the preliminary inquiry had been gone through by another officer. It was at a moment when France, after an heroic resistance, had been compelled to make a disastrous peace, a peace involving the cession of two of her most patriotic provinces, and a ransom of five milliards; at a moment when free and intelligent electors had placed the executive power in the hands of an illustrious man and a great citizen; at a moment when France, while healing her wounds, should have learned a great lesson from adversity and risen greater from the trial, that the conspirators against society thought the time had come to finish the work of destruction begun by the Prussians. A set of parasites, envious of all superiority, the very men who had compromised the defence of Paris and checked the army throughout France, had headed an

insurrection. They had prolonged and rendered more onerous and humiliating the Prussian occupation. Owing to them the Prussians had threatened to occupy the whole of France to establish order. The ruins in and around Paris testified against them. Of the guilty men but a small fraction were now at the bar; the rest had fled, leaving to their fate the citizens they had deluded, and taking with them the fruits of their pillage. The public prosecutor alleged that the International Society, whose object was to destroy the family, religion, and property, found a means of action in the Central Committee of the National Guard, which governed Paris from March 18 to March 26. The Commune continued their work, the Central Committee remaining all the time an occult power. He submitted to the Court that the members of the Commune were one and all responsible for all the acts done in the name of the Commune. It was no answer to say, as some of the prisoners did, that they disapproved certain measures. They should have shown their disapproval by resigning, as the prisoner Ulysse Patenôtre did; and as to him, he was not charged with any of the acts of the Commune after the early stage at which he left it. He should contend that every member of the Commune was, as an accomplice in the first degree, responsible to the same extent as the principals for the murder and arson which had been committed. He read all the principal proclamations of the Commune which appeared in their *Journal Officiel*, and said he held the prisoners responsible for the whole of them. Commander Gaveau read very long extracts from law-books to show what was the accepted doctrine about complicity and premeditation, and argued particularly that the first order for the arrest of the hostages was one for their execution, and that the month which elapsed before the order was carried into effect

was the strongest evidence of premeditation. He next entered upon an examination of the facts relating to each prisoner, and concluded by calling for the punishment of death against all the prisoners except Courbet and Parent.

The counsel who had been assigned officially to Ferré declined to speak, his client desiring to defend himself. Ferré then attempted to read a paper abusing the Versailles Government, glorifying the Commune, and leaving his reputation and his vengeance to posterity. He was, however, put down. Léon Bigot thereupon commenced the defence of Assi. He claimed the most complete freedom of speech. Assi had been called a Prussian, an Italian, and even a Turk. He was a Frenchman of a most respectable family. His maternal grandfather was a naval officer who was wounded at Clichy, and who was made a prisoner in England. He had an uncle a Consul at Rhode Island. The learned counsel traced the history of the patriotic excitement in Paris after the capitulation. The Central Committee of the National Guard was the result of the imbecility of the Government of Sept. 4. That Government conspired to disarm the National Guard. Assi merely practised the doctrines of M. Ernest Picard. The letters alleged to have been written to him by the International Society from London were police forgeries.

The pleadings are still going on.

GALLANT RESCUE.—Last Saturday evening a child about four years of age fell off the Victoria Embankment into the River Thames, midway between Waterloo and Hungerford bridges. Police-Constable Charles Curtis, E 230, happened to be passing at the time, and, without a moment's hesitation, he pulled off his coat, trousers, and boots and plunged into the water after the child, whom he brought safely to land, amid the cheers of numbers of spectators. The child was as nearly dead as possible; but, a good-natured person happening to pass with a horse and cart, the boy was taken to the Charing-cross Hospital, and in the course of an hour seemed little the worse for the bath which so nearly cost him his life.

SCARCITY OF LABOUR IN CORNWALL.—The long-continued emigration of miners and agricultural labourers from Cornwall is now being much felt in the county. Farmers, as a rule, are compelled to carry on harvest operations with a comparatively small force, and during the last few days they have offered £5 to £5 10s. per month, including rations; but even this rate of payment has brought them but few harvest labourers. The crops have ripened rapidly, and machinery is employed in the county only to a limited extent. Skilled miners have also become scarce, the low rate of payment at the bulk of the Cornish mines having caused hundreds to quit Cornwall for abroad, and, within the last three weeks, for English and Welsh collieries. Unless the tin-mines give increased wages the exodus will undoubtedly continue.

KESHUB CHUNDER SEN ON THE DUTY OF CHRISTIANS IN REGARD TO PACIFIC EFFORTS.—"I have come to a Christian country in order to study all the varied and numerous phases of Christian thought, feeling, and action; but I must say, candidly, I cannot understand how Christians, as Christians, can fight so brutally as they often do. As a Hindoo, I cannot understand, and look upon it as a great anomaly in Christendom, how year after year the most deadly and destructive weapons and engines of torture and war are being invented in order to carry the art of slaughtering our brother man to perfection. These are barbarities, these are brutal things which have cast a slur upon a Christian nation, and which, for the honour of a Christian nation, ought to be removed and obliterated instantaneously. I hope and trust that every legitimate attempt will be made to take away from war all its deadly spirit, and save Christendom from the reproach of encouraging war. I really cannot tell how the followers of the Prince of Peace can ever go to war. It has been said, and may oftentimes be repeated in future, that a small number of men, however educated and powerful they may be, on the banks of the Thames, can never expect to revolutionise the whole world; ideas of war and the very spirit of war have been established in the midst of all civilised nations, and it is impossible to believe that the Peace Society will ever achieve success in this direction. But I do not and cannot believe that, if we all bring our best energies and our best sentiments into play we shall fail. We should not fall if God is on our side—if truth, mercy, and love are on our side. There is something appalling in the very idea of a battle. If we only take into account the number of those who have been made orphans and widows, and the huge amount of suffering caused to various individuals and nations, the pecuniary losses, physical sufferings, and all manner of cruelty exercised and sorrow endured, I cannot for one moment believe that men can live and die as true Christians, without doing all in their power to check and arrest the growth of the spirit of war. The demon of war requires to be crushed down immediately, and in every possible way. By resorting to newspapers, by using our influence in our own private circles, by means of public preaching, and by means of our own example and conduct, let us try to induce all sections of human brotherhood to fraternise with each other."

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS.—The special questions for discussion at the Leeds Congress of the Social Science Association, to commence on Oct. 4—under the presidency of Sir John Pakington, Bart., M.P.—have been finally arranged by the general and local committees of the several departments as under:—Jurisprudence (W. Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., M.P., president): 1. What steps ought to be taken to establish a better system of legal education? 2. What is the best constitution of local courts, and what should be their jurisdiction? 3. What alterations are expedient in the laws relating to the devolution and transfer of land? Repression of Crime (Lord Teignmouth, chairman): 1. How far ought the cellular system of imprisonment to be adopted? and how far does it necessarily interfere with productive labour? 2. By what principles ought the amount of punishment, other than capital, to be regulated? 3. By what measures may the trading in stolen property, whether by purchasing it or receiving it in pledge, be most effectually prevented? Education (Mr. Edward Baines, M.P., president): 1. What are the special requirements for the improvement of the education of girls? 2. How may the education of neglected children be best provided for? The question to be considered under the divisions: (a) Industrial schools and their relation to the school boards; (b) In what form, if any, may compulsion be best applied? 3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of large as compared with small schools? Health (Mr. George Goodwin, F.R.S., president): 1. What are the best and most economical methods of removing and utilising the sewage of large towns? 2. What are the best means of securing the sanitary improvement of human habitations? 3. What are the best means of promoting the health of operatives in factories and workshops? Economy and Trade (Mr. William Newmarch, F.R.S., president): 1. What amendments are needed in the existing laws for the licensing of houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors? 2. What principles ought to regulate the assessment and administration of local taxation? 3. Is it desirable that the State or municipality should assist in providing improved dwellings for the lower classes; and, if so, to what extent, and in what way? These questions will be taken one on each day, and two days will be set apart for the reading and discussion of voluntary papers on other subjects within the range of the departments not specified above.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.—Several of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools make suggestions, in their reports issued this year, upon the subject of compulsory education. The Rev. G. Steele, reporting on Church schools in Lancashire, cites the testimony of a school manager in an agricultural village that there are times in the year when a child's assistance may be indispensable to the parent, and when the working classes claim a species of "vested interest" in their children's help and service. Mr. Steele thinks mischief might be done by attempting too much at once, and the working classes might be seriously alienated by hasty measures of compulsion; but he sees no objection to prohibiting children under thirteen from commencing daily work until they have had some ascertained and approved amount of education, and to gradually following this up by more stringent measures. The Rev. J. R. Byrne, reporting on Church schools in the south-west of England, is of opinion that parents would soon adjust themselves to the altered circumstances if the minimum attendance insisted on should not exceed 200, equivalent to one hundred days in the year, and if due regard be had to the description of labour locally in demand and the seasons in which there is the greatest call for it. The Rev. H. W. Bellairs apprehends that the compulsory system will probably for a long time be confined to the towns; and so we shall have in rural districts ignorance, with its concomitant vice, while in the contiguous towns we shall have improved education and reduction of crime. He suggests, with a view to meet objections to compulsory attendance on the score of removing boys from agricultural labour, that, if school began at half-past eight a.m. instead of at nine, and at half-past one instead of at two, and if a half instead of a whole holiday were given on Saturday, the Easter and Whituntide holidays stopped, and the Christmas holidays reduced to a day or two, a sufficient gain of school time would be obtained to allow boys to go to work in the spring and summer months, compelling school attendance only through the winter and early spring. On the other hand, the Rev. D. J. Stewart insists that children who attend school irregularly, or for only a few months in the year, learn very little, and destroy the value of the school to those who attend steadily; and other inspectors take the same view. The Rev. E. T. Watts, who inspected Church schools in Wales, is convinced that there is "a residuum" of population so sunk in indolence, superinduced by thriftlessness or habits of inebriety, that no moral suasion will induce them to send their children to school with any satisfactory degree of regularity. In one parish, at his recommendation, to meet the plea of poverty, the master proposed to forego payment for every week in which a child attended, but to exact it rigidly when the child stayed away from school; but even these terms proved unsuccessful. If the compulsory system should succeed in the towns, it cannot be kept within those limits.

THE HARVEST AND CROPS.

MR. JAMES SAUNDERS reports thus on harvest prospects:—Crops throughout England have ripened almost simultaneously, cutting is general in the home counties, one half of the cereal crop is secured, and, with favourable weather for the next fortnight, the great bulk of the grain crops will be in-gathered. But to notice the different crops in detail. There were early indications that the wheat crop would not be productive. The severe frosts of spring decimated the plants on undrained land and on loose soils, especially on black fen land which had not been recently clayed. The ravages of the wireworm were unusually severe, and, from the wet condition of the land, the only means—heavy and frequent rollings—of mitigating the evils referred to were unavailable; hence a considerable area of wheat was ploughed up, and a large breadth that was allowed to grow was so thinly planted that it could not yield half a crop. The ear-forming stage was by no means favourable, while the blooming season, from being wet and windy, was the most adverse I ever remember. So early as in the middle of June it was evident that, under the most favourable circumstances, the wheat yield of 1871 would be deficient. The gloomy month of July tended more to the production of straw than grain, and the heavy and frequent rains greatly injured the crop on loose soils.

The extensive fen area, which usually has a greater acreage yield than any other description of soil in England, has suffered severely from storms. I have seen several fields not worth the cost of harvesting, and I do not hesitate to say that the yield of wheat in the fen districts will be one half short of that of last year. Speaking generally, it is the heavy or wheat soils (barring the chalk-loams of East Kent, the red marls of Worcester, and the red sandstone of Hereford) that are most deficient; while it is the light soils—which have yielded inferior crops the last three years—that have relatively produced the best crops. There is fully one third more straw than last year, but the heads are short, the spikelets are widely apart, many husks are empty, and there are an unusual number of barren ears. Crops, where laid and in sheltered situations, have been attacked by mildew, in a few districts rust has caused considerable damage, and the majority of fields have a leaden instead of a golden hue. The results of thrashed-out fields in Kent, Surrey, Essex, Berks, Northampton, and Lincoln have not been satisfactory; and, as the greater portion of the laid crops is still uncut, I anticipate that, as the process of thrashing advances, results will prove more disappointing.

I estimate the wheat yield at 22 bushels per acre, or 8 bushels under average, or, as compared with recent years, 2 bushels per acre under the yield of last year, 2 bushels per acre under the crop of 1869, 14 bushels short of the great crop of 1868, and about equal to the crop of 1867; or, to take the aggregate yield, and assuming that the area under wheat will be equal to that of last year, the results are as follow:—In the year 1868, 16½ million qrs.; in the year 1869, 12 million qrs.; in the year 1870, 13 million qrs.; and in the year 1871, 9½ million qrs.

Barley, which has been appropriately termed the grape of England, is by far the best of the cereal crops. Bulky in straw, thickly planted, long and closely set in ear, the barley crop of 1871, for bulk, yield, and quality, has seldom been equalled. The chief cause of the success of this—as well as of all spring crops—must be ascribed to the favourable seed-bed they secured. The soil was not only baked by summer droughts, but also pulverised by the bare winter frosts, therefore a more favourable seed-bed was never obtained. The rainfall during the end of last week—by swelling the kernel, which promised to be somewhat shrivelled and steeley—has vastly improved the quality of this grain. I estimate the yield to be 25 per cent over average.

As in 1869, so also in this year, the oat crop is the most erratic and variable. In the south this crop, contrary to ordinary years, far exceeds that in the north, and crops are bulkiest on soils generally considered unsuitable for the production of oats. The yield in the south exceeds expectations. A field I saw thrashed out in Northamptonshire yielded 10 qrs. per acre, and the weight of grain was 45 lb. per bushel. Taking this crop as a whole, I consider it to be a good average.

The bean crop is most prolific, thickly planted, strong and lengthy in stem, and closely podded. I consider it nearly equal to the crops of the last three years combined. I estimate this crop to be 20 per cent over average.

The pea crop, too, is singularly bulky, and promises an unusually large yield. From the almost total failure of seeds last year a large breadth of peas was sown, and, taking the excessive area together with the enormous yield, probably a larger pea crop was never produced in England.

The potato crop, so far as number of plants, vigour of stem, and number of tubers are concerned, was never more promising. Disease, however, especially in low and sheltered fields, has already caused considerable damage, but with a continuance of dry weather it is hoped that something approaching to an average crop of sound tubers may yet be obtained.

Root crops, comprising turnips, mangold, and kohlrabi, never looked better. The turnip crop especially—which, when good, is the basis of a successful rotation of crops, is the best soil-restoring crop, and lessens the farmer's outlay on artificial foods—is singularly promising. Not a patchy nor a blighted field is to be seen, but everywhere this crop is remarkable for luxuriance.

The hay harvest was protracted, on account of the frequent and heavy rains. Meadow hay, on the whole, was secured in fair condition, and proved an average crop. From the failure of seeds last year, artificial hay was limited to a small area, and was an indifferent yield.

Pastures were backward in the early part of the season, but rarely have cattle and sheep fattened so rapidly as during the last three months. Those who predicted the destruction of clovers and the finer grasses from the severe drought of last year were premature in their opinions, for seldom have clovers been so abundant, the sward so close and luxuriant, or pastures carried so large a number of stock. The abundance of milfoil or yarrow is doubtless caused by the drought of the last three years, which fosters the growth of this plant.

Young seeds are singularly luxuriant. Green crops—tares, sainfoin, and lucern—are abundant, and the yield of vegetable produce has not been equalled for several years.

Taking the produce of 1871 as a whole, it may be safely said, notwithstanding the deficient wheat yield and the general failure of orchard fruit, that seldom has English produce been so valuable and abundant.

With respect to the demand for labour, the contrast between this year and the last is remarkable. Last year the union-houses were full; there was little or no hay to mow, almost no turnip-hoeing, and unusually light harvest labour. This year there is a scarcity of labourers, and as much as 8s. 6d. per acre has been paid for simply tying and shocking corn. It is worthy of remark that every description of farm produce is dear. Breadstuffs command full prices, the prices of beef and mutton have been rarely exceeded, store stock are 30 per cent higher than in last year, and wool is realising 15 per cent over last year's prices. Coupling the high prices with the abundant produce, the year 1871 will doubtless prove a bountiful year to the farmers.

NEW BRIDGE AT CHELSEA.—A new bridge over the Thames has been actively commenced at Chelsea, which is to be called the Albert Bridge. It will connect the Chelsea and the Battersea shores of the river at the Cadogan Pier, and open up a direct line of communication between Oakley-street, the one end, and the Albert-road, Battersea Park, on the other. The timber staging across the river, from point to point, was completed on Monday, upon which occasion the directors of the company and their friends visited the works. The bridge will be 710 ft. in length, and has been designed by Mr. Ordish, the engineer to the company, upon his rigid suspension principle, as carried out by him at Prague and in India. There will be two piers dividing the bridge into three spans, one of 400 ft. and two of 155 ft. each. The constructing engineer is Mr. F. W. Bryant, who occupied a similar position on the Westminster and new Blackfriars bridges. The date fixed for the completion of the bridge is May, 1872; and, judging from the progress recently made, that time is not likely to be greatly exceeded.

JUVENILE STREET-WORKERS.

THE School Board for London publishes the following memorandum on the reference from the board to the Industrial Schools Committee as to children occupied in street-work:—

"In the middle of July an inspection was made of the numbers and occupations of children under thirteen years old in the streets from the Royal Exchange, by Temple-bar and Regent-street, to the Marble Arch. The following is a summary of the result:—Road-sweepers, 14 boys; licensed shoeblacks, 27 boys; other shoeblacks, 6 boys; sellers of matches, 45 boys and 11 girls; sellers of newspapers, 42 boys and 5 girls; sellers of other articles, 3 boys and 4 girls: total, 157. Besides these children there were of persons in the same streets over thirteen years old at the same employments—186 men and 64 women: total, 250, of whom 8 were crossing-sweepers; and in addition there were 77 persons with advertising-boards between Temple-bar and Oxford-circus. Thus in about five miles of the most frequented thoroughfares there were 157 children street-workers, or about 30 to the mile. Nearly all these children are without any special control of their conduct. Their struggles to secure custom are without regulation, so that when the competitors are vigorous and active their business is impeded by their own zeal, and their disturbance of the public thoroughfare is rendered more objectionable. The example, also, of such street children is pernicious to others of their class who are not so employed, and, while no preventive regulations order their ways, the harassing of them by punishment for misconduct merely discourages the weaker ones, and such as are the least pushing and troublesome. All these children, it must be clearly understood, are ordinarily outside the provisions of the Industrial Schools Act, as well as the usual administration of the police regulations against obstruction of the highway. Now, it is found by experience that no efforts of societies or other private voluntary associations can enforce order among juvenile street-workers unless the 'station' or 'beat' of each one of them is defined by public regulations. The need of such restrictions was acknowledged, some years ago, in the case of three kinds of street-workers—the commissionaires, the messengers, and the shoeblacks; and in 1867, by the Streets Traffic Act, secs. 19 and 20, it was enacted that every person employed in any of these three occupations must have a personal license for identification, and that the stations where they ply must have a local license allotting the number to be allowed at each place. Delay in applying some stringent remedy will only complicate the case with additional difficulty, because the number of children employed in the streets will be much increased when the compulsory powers of the School Board by-laws shall be put into operation; for among the valid excuse to be allowed under these laws for omitting ordinary attendance at school will doubtless be the plea that the child is 'engaged in earning money.' To escape school, therefore, the child can be sent, or can go, into the streets as a seller (ostensibly, at least) of some light, cheap article; and he will thereby have the same ground for exemption from ordinary school attendance which must be allowed to children employed in a shop, or for errands or similar work. When such future circumstances arise, it will undoubtedly be difficult to make and enforce new police regulations; but if these are applied now, they can be arranged before the pressure comes, so as to operate with the by-laws of the School Board when they shall be in operation.

"The following plans are suggested as feasible:—Let the authorities assign to each particular station or beat in the streets a certain number to be allowed of licensed children street-workers. Let them then issue double the number of personal licenses to children for that same station or beat, but each license good for only half of every day, say the odd numbers for the mornings. This will cause such children to come in relays, and, instead of the same children being in the street from eight a.m. to ten p.m., there will be one set of them at their business in the morning or evening, while the other set can be lawfully compelled to attend school. The School Board by-laws will at once affect this latter purpose if it be ordained that no child shall be excused as a street-worker unless he has a license, and is also at a licensed station. Next, with regard to the crossing-sweepers and the road-sweepers. Experiments tried a few years ago showed that when a crossing-sweeper has to beg while he is at his post only one sixth of his time is occupied by his work and five sixths by begging. A crossing-sweeper forbidden to beg could easily keep six crossings perfectly clean. A box on the lamp-post near each of these should receive what some passengers may wish to give, and a proportion should be paid to the boy besides regular wages, while promotion and prizes for good conduct and good work should be arranged under inspection, as in the shoeblack societies. The present holders of crossings should be first invited to join the corps, and, if they refuse, new crossings near them can readily be started. Old or infirm holders of crossings should be left in possession, or offered a small payment where little work has to be done. All these arrangements can be lawfully made under the present law by the local boards; but only in the City and in one West-End parish have they been carried into effect. It is monstrous that begging, which is punished in general, should be allowed, not to say encouraged, for every person who can hold a broom. The match-sellers and other similar classes should each have a 'beat' assigned between certain lampposts. The newspaper boys should be posted in like manner, and allowed to place their bundle of newspapers on the kerb, protected by the lamppost. The whole of these should have numbered badges. Voluntary associations will soon arise to organise these children, as they have done with regard to the shoeblacks. The children themselves will speedily perceive that their earnings and their education and future success are advanced by organisation, and so a vast number of those who are now miserable will be enabled to earn a better livelihood in an orderly way. The number of shoeblack boys in London is, perhaps, 800, and of these the shoeblacks in the six regular societies alone earn more than £10,000 a year. Probably 2000 children street-workers, if properly managed, would be enabled to maintain themselves while they were being moderately educated, and, moreover, to save money sufficient to start them in life in more regular employment.

"To secure the desirable objects mentioned above, the following provisions seem to be necessary:—1. An amendment of the Streets Traffic Act of 1867, by inserting after the word 'messengers' the following words:—'Or other persons engaged in selling articles in the streets which do not require a fixed stall, or stand, or barrow.' 2. An agreement between the principal vestries and local boards to put in operation the powers they already possess by the Metropolitan Management Act, 18 and 19 Vict. c. 120 sec. 118, enabling these local authorities to appoint and pay street-sweepers with proper distinctive uniforms and badges. 3. An arrangement between the local authorities, the police, and the School Board by which the regulations for appointment and licensing of children street-workers shall facilitate their attendance at school. 4. Simultaneous and concerted action on the part of voluntary societies, with the one great object in view to benefit the children. Let the School Board be the centre of this action, and, without any doubt, the object will be secured."

THE MAIL-STEAMER BELGIQUE, plying between Ostend and Dover, about one o'clock on Thursday morning came into collision with an unknown vessel off the Foreland. The vessel sank immediately. There were apparently six or seven on board, all of whom were drowned, notwithstanding efforts made by the steamer to save them. A portion of the gear and part of the masts of the vessel were picked up—apparently that of a schooner.

POTATO DISEASE IN IRELAND.—During last week the blight has spread to such an extent in Ireland that it is feared the potato crop will be almost ruined. In some fields in Tipperary fully nine tenths have rotted already, and the remainder is despaired of. In fact, there has not been such a heavy visitation since the great famine, twenty-five years ago; and, were it not for the favourable condition of cereal crops, the consequences might be as disastrous as then to the peasantry. In the neighbourhood of the potato-land the air is most disagreeable from the oppressive odour caused by the blight.



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